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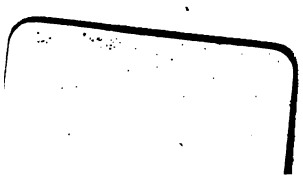

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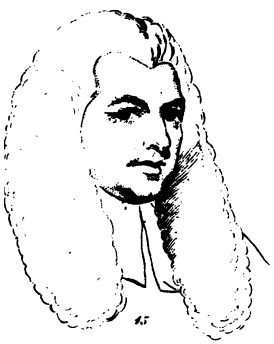

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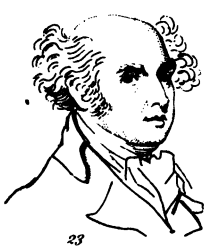

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PUBLIC

CHARACTERS

OF

1799-1800.

" ——— I wish no other herald,
" No other speaker of my *living actions*,
" To keep mine honour from corruption,
" But such an honest chronicler." ———

HEN. VIII. Act 4, Sc. 2

" ——— Hic nigræ succus loliginis; hæc est
" Æruginis mera; quod vitium procul afore chartis,
" Atque animo prius, ut si quid promittere de me
" Possum aliud vere promitto."

HORACE, Sat. i. 4. 100.

TO BE CONTINUED ANNUALLY.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE favourable reception with which the former volume of this work was honoured, the rapid sale of two very large editions in Great Britain, and the avidity with which it was translated into foreign languages and re-published in Ireland and America, render it unnecessary for the editor to expatiate on the nature and utility of the design.

In the preface to that volume, he described at large the peculiar advantages possessed by contemporary over posthumous biography; and he conceives that the spirit of candour and moderation, in which the several memoirs were written, tended to rescue this species of writing from much of the obloquy under which it had previously laboured.

The same spirit has directed the formation of the present volume; and the editor hopes it will be found that the various WRITERS of the

following pages have fully availed themselves of the advantages resulting from living observation, uninfluenced by the prejudices which too frequently disfigure the opinions of contemporaries.

The memoirs in the present, as in the former, volume have been communicated by the persons whose initials or assumed signatures are affixed to them. These persons in general have an immediate knowledge of the individuals respecting whom they write, and are able to bestow on their respective articles a due degree of authenticity and copiousness. It results, however, as a consequence of this necessary arrangement, that the work contains much variation of style, and considerable inequality of literary merit. Thus, while *some* articles only recommend themselves as containing a simple statement of facts, *others*, communicated by gentlemen of distinguished literary attainments, abound in moral and critical observations, and combine, with UNQUESTIONABLE AUTHENTICITY, the graces of elegant composition.

It

It is presumed that no sentiment has place in this volume which can give a moment's pain to any of the personages whose memoirs are inserted. Corrections of any such passages, should they unfortunately exist, and valuable and authentic communications or additions to any of the articles, will henceforward be affixed to each subsequent volume in the form of an Appendix.

London, October, 1799.

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PUBLIC CHARACTERS

Of 1799.

JERVIS, EARL ST. VINCENT.

——— VINCENTI CORONA.

UPON that column, which a grateful country meditates to erect in commemoration of naval victories, glorious beyond example and important beyond calculation, the chissel of the artist shall not inscribe a name more deservedly esteemed and honoured than that of Jervis, nor shall the pen of the historian record a victory more glorious than that whence this brave commander derives his title.

While sculpture and history thus commemorate the achievement, curiosity, laudably inquisitive, inquires the name and character of the individual who performed it; and the writer of the biographic sketch, occasionally quitting the anecdote which gratifies curiosity, rises into the consequence of the historian, and records a brilliant event in the annals of his country.

Earl St. Vincent, although sixty-five years of age, fifty-five of which have been spent in the service, still retains

" A sparkling eye beneath a veteran brow."

His

His Lordship possesses all the fire and energy of youth tempered with all the maturer experience and deliberative wisdom of age. He is descended from an ancient and respectable family in Staffordshire, and is the second and youngest son of Swynfen Jervis, Esq. barrister-at-law, counsel to the Admiralty, and auditor of Greenwich-Hospital; and his mother was the sister of Sir Thomas Parker, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

At the early period of ten years of age, his Lordship quitted Burton Grammar-School,* where he imbibed the rudiments of his education, and entered into the navy, a service in which he was probably induced to embark from his father's situation in the Admiralty.

The foundation of those principles of naval discipline and superior seamanship, which his Lordship has upon all occasions so conspicuously and effectually displayed, was first laid under that distinguished officer Lord Hawke, to whose principles, although that great commander is now no more, the British navy is in no inconsiderable degree indebted for the fame it has acquired.

The probationary interval of servitude, passed in the capacity of midshipman until rising to the rank of lieutenant, affords little scope for general observation or public notice; it is enough, that, in this capacity, the more private but not less meritorious duties are performed under the eye and

* Mr. Meux, the brewer, was one of his Lordship's cotemporaries.

approbation

approbation of the superior officers; but it is allowed by all who knew his Lordship in that subordinate capacity, that he was here distinguished for that prompt obedience to command which constitutes, in the opinion of his Lordship, the life and soul of naval discipline.

Soon after the peace, his Lordship was sent to France to acquire those accomplishments which are requisite in an extensive intercourse with the world, and perfect himself in the French language, an almost-indispensable requisite in the education of a naval officer.

The limits assigned to this sketch do not allow us to trace his Lordship through the respective gradations of lieutenant, or master and commander, those more prominent points only of general observation and historical record must consequently form this biographic portrait, accompanied by such information and anecdote as may gratify reasonable curiosity, delineated with that fidelity, and, at the same time, consistent with that delicacy, which ought always to be observed in sketching the portrait of a *living* character.

The dates of his Lordship's commission as a lieutenant, and master and commander, together with the services he performed, are here not touched upon, because the splendor of his later achievements is so conspicuous, as to render these details, (necessary, perhaps, in other lives,) in his character, more easily to be dispensed with. This, therefore, we shall pass over, with the

the observation, that, in the year 1760, his Lordship was promoted to the rank of post-captain, and served some time upon the West-India station.

In the memorable engagement between the French and British fleets, on the 27th and 28th of July, 1778, his Lordship commanded the Foudroyant, which was the next ship to the Victory, and as closely engaged and as much disabled as any ship in the fleet. Indeed it is impossible to convey a better idea of his Lordship's character and opinion, relative to that engagement, than by the following extracts from the clear, consistent, and pointed, testimony which he gave upon the court-martial called upon Admiral Keppel.

Upon the following question being put by the Admiral,

2. Your station being nearest me during the pursuit of the enemy and after the action, which gave you an opportunity of observing my conduct, and of seeing objects nearly in the same point of view with myself, I desire you will state to the court any instance, if you saw or knew of any such, in which I negligently performed my duty on the 27th or 28th of July?

A. With great respect to you, sir, and deference to the court, I hope I shall be indulged with having that question put by the court.

The Judge-Advocate, *mutatis mutandis*, then put the question.

A.

A. I feel myself bound to answer that question. I believe it to be consonant to the general practice of sea courts-martial. — I cannot boast of a long acquaintance with Admiral Keppel; I never had the honour of serving under him before; but I am happy in this opportunity to declare to this court, and to the whole world, that, during the whole time that the English fleet was in sight of the French fleet, he displayed *the greatest naval skill and ability and the boldest enterprise upon the 27th of July; which, with the promptitude of Sir Robert Harland, will be subjects of my admiration and imitation as long as I live.*

From the evidence given upon this trial it appears, that the Foudroyant, which had got into her station about three, and never left it till four the next morning, was very closely engaged, and in a most disabled state. Her main-mast had received a shot very near through the head and lodged in the cheek, which passed through the heart of the mast; and several other shot in different places; her fore-mast had also received several shot; a large excavation had been made in her bowsprit near the centre; the fore-topmast was so disabled, that it was obliged to be reefed, and the mizen was totally disabled; every rope of her running-rigging cut, and her shrouds demolished; no braces or bowlines left, and scarcely any hallyards: fore-stay, spring-stay, and topsail-ties, and the foot-rope of the fore-topsail, shot away: her sails also were very much shattered.

In

In this most disabled state, the Foudroyant was not in a condition to chase, but kept her station next the Victory, as far to windward as possible. "*I was covetous of wind,*" said this brave officer, "*because, disabled as I then was, I conceived the advantage of the wind could only carry me again into action.*"

Being asked some questions relative to the position of the vice-admiral and his division, his Lordship pointedly replied, that "he was not a *competent judge of that part of the fleet, he was very attentive to the admiral.*"

Nor was the *special pleading*, attempted to be introduced relative to any variance between his evidence and the log-book, capable of affecting him. His Lordship declared he always gave his testimony from his own observation. His questions were not shaped to answers; nor would he, in any case, be compelled to swear to what was set down in the log-book, but only from what he saw or knew.

Indeed, throughout the whole of this examination, his Lordship's presence of mind, readiness and point in answer, and unshaken firmness, has demonstrated, that his intellectual faculties are by no means inferior to his successful intrepidity in the heat of battle.

We come now to detail the particulars, to use the words of Admiral Barrington, then commander-in-chief, of one of the most brilliant actions which had occurred during the American war, namely, the capture of *the Pégase*; an action which decidedly proved

proved that species of happy valour, which constitutes the leading feature of his Lordship's professional character. In the month of April, 1782, Admiral Barrington sailed for the Bay of Biscay with twelve sail of the line; and, when a short distance off Ushant, Captain M'Bride, commanding the *Artois*, which was very far a-head, made the signal for discovering an enemy's fleet. In consequence of which, the Admiral hove out the signal for a general chase, and about three o'clock the enemy became visible; but the Admiral's ship, the *Britannia*, was left very far a-stern by many of the prime-sailing ships, amongst which, the Foudroyant, Captain Jervis, so far outstripped the rest, that, when night came on, with hazy weather, he soon lost them entirely, but still kept a full view of the enemy, whom he pursued with unremitting vigour. The chased fleet consisted of eighteen sail, laden with provision and ammunition, and containing a considerable number of troops for the supply of the French fleet and forces in the East Indies, being particularly to supply the loss of that convoy which had been taken by Admiral Kempenfelt in the preceding winter: they had sailed from Brest only the day before, and were under the protection of the *Protecteur* and *Pégase* of 74 guns each, *l'Actionnaire* of 64 guns, armed en flute, and a frigate. The Foudroyant gained so fast upon the chase, that it was evident they could not escape without an engagement; the convoy was therefore dispersed by signal; and the two

French seventy-fours having consulted together, it was determined, that, as the *Protecteur* had a large quantity of money on-board, she should make the best of her way; and that, if fighting was inevitable, the *Pégase* should abide the consequence. A little before one A. M. the *Foudroyant* came up, and was closely engaged with the *Pégase*, commanded by the Chevalier de Sillans. This action was extremely fierce whilst it lasted; but, within less than an hour from its commencement, his Lordship laid the French ship aboard on the larboard quarter, and the *Pégase* was compelled to strike. Nothing could have afforded a more striking instance of the decided superiority of seamanship and discipline on the one side, and of the great effects which these qualifications produced on the other, than the circumstances of this gallant action. On board the *Pégase*, 80 were killed and wounded; the hull, masts, and yards, of the French ship were materially injured; and the damage she sustained was beyond any thing that could have been supposed, considering the short time she was engaged; while the *Foudroyant* sustained but little injury; not a man was killed, none mortally, and his Lordship the worst wounded.* At this time, the sea was so

* His Lordship was wounded by a splinter, which struck him on the temple, the effects of which have never been removed, as his eyes have ever since been affected. The engagement between the Foudroyant and the Pégase have been admirably depicted by Serres, who has devoted two pictures to the subject, which are now in the possession of the Marquis of Lansdown.

rough,

rough, that it was with great difficulty that his Lordship, with the loss of two boats, could put an officer and eighty men on board the prize. Soon after this was effected, the *Foudroyant*, and *Pégase* lost sight of each other; but the *Queen*, fortunately coming up, took possession of her. In consequence of this gallant action, Captain Jervis was honoured with the insignia of Knight of the Bath; and, about this period, was married to his first cousin, Miss Parker, daughter of Sir Thomas Parker.

Previous to the commencement of the present war, his Lordship, who, in the year 1787, had been promoted to the rank of rear-admiral of the blue, and in the year 1790 to that of rear-admiral of the white, acted and voted with the Opposition; but, when the war had actually commenced, he considered himself as bound in honour to make a tender of his services; which, highly creditable to the judgement of administration, was immediately accepted, and he was appointed to command the squadron, destined to co-operate with Sir Charles Grey in the reduction of the French West-India islands.* In this toilsome service, with the most formidable difficulties to encounter, the spirit and perseverance of these brave commanders shone pre-eminently conspicuous; and the London Gazette Ex-

* About ten thousand men, originally destined for this service, were drafted off, and employed in an expedition to the coast of France.

traordinary, in the month of April, 1794, announced the important intelligence, that, on the 16th of March preceding, the whole island of Martinique had been captured from the French, excepting the forts *Bourbon* and *Royal*, which were then closely besieged; and, on the 26th of the same month, dispatches from the commander-in-chief were received, containing intelligence of the complete conquest of the island of *Martinique* by the surrender of the fort *Bourbon:* five stand of colours laid down by the garrison, together with two colours of *Fort Bourbon*, were sent and presented to his Majesty. This was a battle on both sides hardly fought; and Sir Charles Grey thus handsomely bears testimony to the gallantry of his opponents: "The gallant defence," said Sir Charles, "made by General *Rochambeau* and his garrison, was strongly manifested on entering Fort Bourbon, as there was scarce an inch of ground untouched by our shot and shells; and it is but justice to say, that it did them the highest honour."

The remainder of the French West-India islands soon after followed the example of *Martinique;* but, in consequence of the sickness of the troops, and for want of sufficient reinforcement, these conquests could not be retained.

Earl St Vincent returned home from this expedition with his health considerably injured, and very much emaciated, from the effects of the yellow fever, but, though his body was visibly impaired, his strong and ardent mind could not long brook inaction;

inaction; and, after the short interval of four months' repose, he was dispatched to succeed Admiral Hotham in command of the Mediterranean squadron, where he blocked up the Spanish fleet and bombarded Cadiz; to which, according to the accounts of the Paris papers, whose authority upon this occasion need not be suspected, he did considerable damage. Indeed, the services he had performed upon this station, in blocking up the Spanish fleet and protecting the coasts of Italy, in addition to his former meritorious achievements, had so recommended him to his Majesty, that it was in contemplation to raise him to the dignity of the peerage, and a patent was actually ordered to be prepared for that purpose, when the news of the glorious defeat of the Spanish fleet was first announced.

Before we enter upon the detail of this memorable victory, in justice to the character of his Lordship, we are bound to make some brief remarks upon the situation of the country, which are necessary to appreciate more justly the value of such distinguished services.

During the year 1797, the war between Great Britain and France was almost exclusively confined to naval operations, in which the skill and activity of British seamen were eminently conspicuous, and a series of splendid victories had animated their spirit to a most uncommon height: — still it must be remarked, that the enemies of

Great Britain had also considerably increased. The Spaniards, negligent of their better interests, too subservient to the fatal influence of the Great Nation! had agreed to co-operate in its desolating principles; and the navy of Spain and Holland was to have joined that of France.

About this period, the conspiracy, which had been long forming in Ireland, began to wear the more open character of bold and avowed rebellion. The conspirators relying upon the protection of France, which could only be afforded by so formidable a concentration of naval force as would have been produced by the junction of the three navies, and which seemed difficult at that period to prevent, began to be more bold and open in their conduct. A general gloom pervaded the country; and never was there a period which required a greater effort to revive the drooping spirits of his countrymen, than the period of this enterprising victory.

The country was, at this time, on all sides, threatened with invasion; the very bulwarks of the nation tottered; and the Irish conspiracy had infected the British fleet, which was taken possession of by the mutineers. To blockade the fleets of the enemy in their own ports and to prevent a junction was the only mode of averting the impending blow. — To have engaged a fleet so numerous as the combined fleets, would have been most hazardous; and with such an inferior squadron to prevent the junction, seemed to be impossible.

sible. Notwithstanding these obstacles, the mighty mind of Sir John Jervis, upon viewing the fleet of the enemy, instantly conceived that bold project, which terminated so gloriously for himself, and so honourably for his country.

Conscious of their superiority of number, the Spanish admiral, not conceiving such a spirit of enterprise as was inherent in the British fleet, watched a favourable opportunity, and put to sea. The moment his Lordship was apprised of the course of the Spanish fleet, he called all his captains on board, explained to them in person his plan of attack, and gave them such complete orders, that he had no occasion, during the whole of the action, to make above three or four signals, a circumstance that contributed considerably to perplex the fleet of the enemy.—This mode, it may be observed, was also followed by Lord Nelson; and to Lord St. Vincent's judgement and system of tactics may be attributed, in a great measure, the glorious victory of the Nile, a victory more brilliant with respect to the number of ships captured, not inferior perhaps in point of daring enterprise, but, certainly, not achieved against an enemy so formidably superior.

The Spanish fleet, commanded by Don Juan de Cordova, consisted of TWENTY-SEVEN sail of the line, one of which was a four-decker, and mounted one hundred and thirty-six guns; six were three-deckers of one hundred and twelve guns each; two of eighty-four, and eighteen of seventy-four.

four. The British squadron amounted only to FIFTEEN SAIL OF THE LINE, FOUR FRIGATES, A SLOOP OF WAR, AND A CUTTER; of these, six were three-deckers, eight were of seventy-four guns, and one of sixty-four. The Spanish admiral had sailed from Cordova on the 4th of February, and passed Gibraltar on the following day, having left in that bay three line-of-battle ships. On the night of the 11th, the Spanish fleet was first discovered by the Minerva frigate; and, in the night of the 13th, the two fleets approached so near each other, that their signal-guns could be heard: at day-break on the 14th, were in complete order, and by six A.M. were prepared for battle. About ten the Spanish fleet was visible to all the British squadron, and some of the ships appeared to be separated from the main body: the British admiral instantly conceived the design of cutting off these before they could re-join, or the main body arrive to their assistance; but, observing the position of the main body, he formed his fleet into a line of battle a-head and a-stern, and, about half past eleven, signified his intention to push through the enemy's line. The signal was accordingly hove out for action. His Lordship accomplished his design, and a part of the fleet was most effectually separated from the main body, which, in consequence of this separation, was reduced to eighteen sail of the line. Towards this main body, which was then to windward, the British admiral directed his attention; and, a little

little after twelve, he again made the signal for passing through the enemy's line, which the Spanish commander attempted to counteract, by wearing round the rear of the British line, to join his ships to leeward; but this effort was counteracted by Commodore Nelson, who had no sooner passed the rear of the enemy, than he ordered his ship, the *Captain*, to wear and stand on the other tack. In executing this bold manœuvre, Commodore Nelson found himself along-side the *Santissima Trinidada* of 136 guns, and the *Captain* only a 74. Although the *Santissima Trinidada* was assisted by her two seconds, three-deckers, this gallant commander did not shrink from the contest. The *Culloden* and *Blenheim* had, however, by this time pressed to his assistance, and the approach of Admiral Parker, with four other ships of the line, prevented the Spanish admiral from effecting his design of re-joining the ships to leeward. The advantage at this period being completely with the British, the Spanish fleet were crowding off; but, in the confusion of their retreat, some of the Spanish ships had doubled on each other. Admiral Jervis then bore up with the seven ships in his division, with an intent to rake the enemy in succession; but, not being able to effect this, he ordered the leading ship, the *Excellent*, to bear up, while he, in the *Victory*, passed to leeward of the rearmost ships of the enemy. Captain Collingwood, who commanded the *Excellent*, accordingly passed between the two rearmost ships of the

the enemy, and poured such an effectual broadside into the *San Ysidro*, that she was obliged to submit. After this, the *Excellent* moved on to the relief of the *Captain*, which was engaged with a three-decker; but, before she could arrive, this ship got foul of her second, a two-decker, in which state they were both boarded by the *Captain*, and the smaller, the *San Nicolas*, was speedily taken possession of; the three-decker, the *San Josef*, followed the fate of her second, and became a prize to Commodore Nelson, who headed the party which boarded her from the San Nicolas. In the mean time, Admiral Jervis, who had ordered the *Victory* to be laid alongside the *Salvador del Mundo*, the rearmost ship of the enemy, poured in such an effectual discharge, that she thought proper to strike. — Thus four of the enemy's ships were in possession of the British, whose loss, in killed and wounded, was exactly three hundred men: the loss of the Spaniards, in the four captured ships alone, amounted to six hundred and ninety-three men; from which proportion, the remainder of their flying fleet must have suffered very considerably. The remainder of the Spanish fleet then took shelter in Cadiz, and Sir John Jervis soon after entered the Tagus, with his fleet and prizes, amidst the cheering shouts of the populace, where three thousand two hundred prisoners were landed from the four prizes. Thus were most propitiously averted the designs of a rapacious enemy, whose intent was to effect a junction

tion with this defeated fleet, that it might disgorge a legion of rapacious madmen on whatever shore of Great Britain might promise the surest means of continuing that desolating system, which has long "frighted Europe from her propriety." And, had this daring enterprise not succeeded, and the little squadron of his Lordship had been defeated, the junction of the French, Dutch, and Spanish, fleets would have amounted to no less than eighty sail of the line!

The gloom which overspread the country was dispelled by the news of this victory, which was received with that grateful exultation which characterizes Englishmen towards their brave defenders. Admiral Jervis received the thanks of the two Houses, and was honoured with the title of Earl St. Vincent, from the scene of this brilliant action, and Baron Jervis of Meaford, from the place of his birth; he also received the gold medal and a pension of three thousand pounds per annum. Pausing for a moment, and contemplating this glorious victory, not in invidious, but more distinctive, comparison with others, it will readily be admitted, that other victories may have been more brilliant in point of the number of ships captured; but it is also to be considered, that the power of the two contending fleets has, in other cases, been nearly balanced. It was reserved, however, for history to trace in characters bold and impressive as the achievement recorded, that a British admiral, with a squadron of *fifteen ships* of the line, engaged

engaged and vanquished the fleet of Spain, consisting of *twenty-seven*, one of which was a *four-decker*, and mounted one hundred and thirty-six guns!

Upon the motion in the House of Lords relative to the late vote of thanks upon his Lordship's victory, the Duke of Bedford proposed, as this victory differed from every other, to introduce an amendment expressive of its characteristic distinction. His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence supported this amendment; and, in his speech upon this occasion, gave several instances, from his own knowledge, of the excellent state and discipline in which the men and ships under his Lordship's command were invariably kept; and, continued his Royal Highness, "without giving the slightest offence to any other, I do not hesitate to declare Sir John Jervis the very best officer in his Majesty's service." — His Royal Highness sailed some time under his Lordship's command: his conduct, as a naval officer, is modelled on his Lordship's principles; and there is no doubt, but, should any occasion offer to call forth the exertion of his Royal Highness's talents, he will prove himself worthy of that school in which he was bred, and not inferior to any of his predecessors in the path of naval renown.

His Lordship has been twice chosen a representative of the borough of Great Yarmouth; and, upon the recommendation of his intimate friend and patron, the Marquis of Lansdown, was introduced

duced to the Whig-party in that town. At a later election, he declined Yarmouth in favour of his colleague, Mr. Beaufoy, and was returned with Sir Thomas Baring for High Wycombe. Upon the death of Lord Charles Townshend, his Lordship was again put in nomination for Yarmouth; but, although this friendly effort did not succeed, it ought in justice to be observed, in testimony of his Lordship's distinguished merit on the one side, and the grateful sense of it entertained by the constituents of this borough on the other, that, in his absence, without any solicitation, even without his knowledge, and without expense, he was put in nomination. Indeed, so firm was his Lordship's attachment to the constituents of this borough, that he wished to have taken the title of Earl of Yarmouth; but, upon being informed that his title was that of St. Vincent, his Lordship observed that he was very well satisfied, as "that title belonged to *every officer and seaman of his fleet.*"

In his political character, his Lordship has voted and acted with Opposition; and his speeches in parliament relative to the impolicy of the present war are replete with that argument and point by which, upon every occasion, his Lordship has been characterized.

His Lordship has long been in habits of intimacy with that great statesman, the Marquis of Lansdown, a nobleman not less distinguished for profound political knowledge than the introduc-

tion

tion and patronage of eminent public characters: to instance, amongst many, Admiral Barrington and Colonel Barré, with all of whom Lord St. Vincent has lived in habits of intimacy and friendship: nor will his Lordship's discriminating judgement pass without a due share of applause, when it is known, that some of the first officers of the navy have been formed under him.* Amongst these may be reckoned Lord Nelson of the Nile: his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence was also some time under his command, and has always professed as much respect and esteem for his Lordship as an individual, as he has declared his well-merited approbation of his Lordship's character as a naval commander.

In consequence of severe illness, occasioned by the baneful effects of a West-India climate, his Lordship was compelled to leave his station in the Mediterranean; but still retains the command, until the state of his health shall permit him to resume it.

On the 18th of August, 1799, his Lordship landed in the dock-yard at Portsmouth, and went to the house of Sir Peter Parker, where he was waited upon by the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses; when the mayor presented the following address:

* Evan Nepean, Esq. the present secretary to the Admiralty, was originally introduced and patronised by Lord St. Vincent, under whom he served as purser.

"My

" My Lord,

Impressed with the most grateful sense of the high services rendered to our country by the glorious victory, obtained by the fleet under your command, over that of the enemy, on the 14th of February, 1797, the mayor and aldermen of this borough elected and appointed your Lordship a burgess of this ancient corporation. They now take the earliest opportunity to shew their high esteem and regard, by congratulating you on your safe return; sincerely wishing your Lordship may be speedily restored to health, that your country may again be benefited by fresh victories obtained by the fleet under your command."

To which his Lordship was pleased to return the following answer:

" I am very happy on this occasion to repeat the sense I entertain of the great honour done me by the mayor and aldermen of the borough of Portsmouth, in electing and appointing me a burgess of their ancient corporation, and in assuring them, that I shall be ready on all occasions to promote the interest of the borough.

" I return you many thanks for your congratulations on my return to England, and kind wishes for the speedy recovery of my health, which *if it please God to restore, the remainder of my life will be devoted to the service of my king and country.*"

It

[illegible] most pleasing and important communica-[illegible] country, that his Lordship is so far advanced [illegible] a state of convalescence as soon to be [illegible] to perform his promise, and conclude a life distinguished for glorious naval achievement in the service of a country which he has so largely contributed to defend and to exalt.

His Lordship was made lieutenant in the year [illegible], in the same year with Lord Duncan and Admiral Hotham. He was made post-captain in the year 1760, knight of the Bath in the year 1783, rear-admiral of the blue in the year 1787, rear-admiral of the white in the year 1790, and is now admiral of the blue.

The whole life of this gallant Admiral, which has been devoted to the service of his country, has been characterized by uncommon energy of mind, and superior skill in his profession. The strictest honour and the most inflexible integrity have ever distinguished his political, and the firmest and warmest attachment to his friends has always characterized his social, life.

M. X. L.

MR.

MR. SHERIDAN.

IT has been justly remarked by Dr. Johnson that, "many things, which are false, are transmitted from book to book, and gain credit in the world." This observation may be applied to the different memoirs of Mr. Sheridan, which have been published. The grossest errors acquire a sort of currency among the majority of readers, who have not had an opportunity, or perhaps an inclination, to investigate the accuracy of circumstances, that seem of trifling moment. They are considered as unquestionable facts by succeeding biographers, and given to the public with embellishments which strengthen deception, and frequently mislead even the friends of the person, whose memoir is the subject of perusal. But it is the duty of a biographer to be accurate in the most trivial circumstances, which he has occasion to relate, or to omit them altogether.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan is the third son of Mr. Thomas Sheridan, celebrated as an actor, eminent for his skill in elocution, and entitled to the gratitude of the public for his judicious and indefatigable exertions to improve the system of education in this country. His works, with the exception of some plays, which he altered, and the Life of Dean Swift, which he prepared

for publication, in general, relate to the elements of language and the instruction of youth *. His father, the Reverend Doctor Thomas Sheridan, was a distinguished divine, the ablest school-master of his time, and the intimate friend of the Dean of St. Patrick's. Mr. Thomas Sheridan died at Margate on the 14th of August, 1788.

Mrs. Frances Sheridan, the mother of Richard Brinsley, a lady no less respected for her domestic virtues than admired for her literary attainments was the author of Sidney Biddulph, a novel, which has the merit of combining the purest morality with the most powerful interest. She also wrote Nourjahad, an Oriental Tale, and the comedies of the Discovery, the Dupe, and a Trip to Bath. She died at Blois in France, the 17th of September, 1766 †.

The

* List of Mr. Sheridan's principal works:—The Loyal Lover, Romeo and Juliet, and Coriolanus, all altered and acted; British Education; A Discourse delivered in the theatre at Oxford, and in the senate-house at Cambridge; A Dissertation on the Causes of the Difficulties which occur in learning the English Tongue; A Course of Lectures on Elocution; A Plan of Education for the young Nobility and Gentry of Great Britain; Lectures on the Art of Reading, in two parts; A general Dictionary of the English Language; The Works of the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's, arranged, revised and corrected; Elements of English.

† Such was the respect paid to her memory by the Bishop of Blois, that he had it intimated to her friends, notwithstanding the difference of religious persuasion, that they might

J. Cundee, Printer, Ivy Lane.

e subject of this memoir was born in Dorset-
, Dublin, in the month of October, 1751 *.
was placed, in his seventh year, with his
brother Charles Francis, late Secretary at
in Ireland, the correct and elegant historian
: revolution in Sweden, under the tuition of
Samuel Whyte of Dublin, the friend of
father, who has been a long time highly
ned for his care and ability in the instruc-
f youth. They were the two first pupils of
Whyte, who opened his academy in April
and it is a circumstance not entirely un-
y of remark, that their early years afforded
mise of the abilities which they have since
yed. Mrs. Sheridan, whose discrimination
t be questioned, took an opportunity, on
itting them to the care of Mr. Whyte, to ad-
the necessity of *patience* in the arduous
sion, which he had embraced, and addressed
n the following language—" These boys

vantage of the night to deposit her remains in conse-
ground, and no interruption should be given to the
eat—an indulgence in France, which was perhaps never
extended to any reputed heretic. Dr. Young, in his
Thoughts, bitterly complains of the different treatment
ttended his daughter's burial in the same country.

* tract from the register of St. Mary's parish, Dublin.
rles Francis, son of Thomas and Frances Sheridan,
d July 23d, 1750—Richard Brinsley, son of Mr. and
eridan, baptized November 4th, 1751."
Sheridan's eldest son Thomas, died in childhood.

will be your tutors in that respect. I have hitherto been their only instructor, and they have sufficiently exercised mine; for two such impenetrable dunces I never met with."

Having remained nearly eighteen months with Mr. Whyte, they were sent by that gentleman in September 1759, to Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, who then resided at Windsor. There they passed nearly a year, their education, during that time, being superintended by Mrs. Sheridan herself. Richard Brinsley was placed at Harrow school, after the Christmas of 1762. The observation, made by his mother on the occasion, taken from one of her letters, now before the writer of this sketch, is, when connected with his subsequent pursuits, rather of a singular kind. She says—"Dick has been at Harrow school since Christmas; as he probably may fall into *a bustling life*, we have a mind to accustom him early to *shift for himself*." It has been reported, but without foundation, that he gave recitations from the English classics during his father's lectures. His father, on the contrary, never entertained an idea of employing him in that manner, as his brother Charles was very much his superior in diligence, correctness of ear, and powers of voice, and was remarkable, when only eleven years old, for his elegant and impressive delivery of several passages from Milton.

The literary advancement of Mr. Sheridan at Harrow, a seminary which has sent into the world

world many finished scholars, and distinguished characters, appears to have been at first retarded, either by the bluntness of his powers, or the negligence of his disposition. Dr. Sumner, who was then master of the school, had probably, from his constant attention to the boys of the higher forms, no opportunity of distinguishing the talents of his pupil; and it was reserved for Dr. Parr, who was at that time one of the sub-receptors, to discover and call into activity the faculties of young Sheridan's mind.

Richard Brinsley was at length roused from the inactivity of which his parents had so frequently complained, and the spirit of emulation produced exertions, which admonition and the fear of correction had vainly endeavoured to excite. He felt, that to be distinguished, it was necessary to devote a considerable part of his time to study. His memory was found to be uncommonly retentive, and his judgment correct; and when his mind was quickened by competition, his genius gradually expanded, into that happy versatility of powers which has never deserted him. But to be admired seemed his only object, and when that end was attained, he relaxed in his application, and sunk into his former indolence. His last year at Harrow was spent more in reflecting on the acquirements he had made, and the eventful scenes of a busy life, which were opening to his view, than in enlarging the circle of his classical and literary attainments.

His father was so highly pleased with the progress his son had made in his studies, that he deemed it unnecessary to send him to the university; and he was, a short time after his departure from Harrow, entered as a student in the Middle Temple. From that period to his marriage with Miss Linley, the life of Mr. Sheridan seems involved in obscurity, which it is difficult to clear up in a satisfactory way. He certainly was not, for it is mentioned on the authority of persons who were then on terms of intimacy with him, either the votary of fashion, or immersed in dissipation.

Mr. Sheridan was, about the age of twenty, peculiarly fond of the society of men of taste and learning, and soon gave proofs that he was inferior to none of his companions in wit and argument. The sum allowed for his support must have been very small, as his father's pension from the crown * was barely sufficient to provide for the expences incurred by a genteel, but moderate plan of living; nor were the emoluments arising from his lectures on elocution, and his performances as an actor, very considerable. In this situation, Mr. Sheridan had recourse to his literary talents for pecuniary supplies. He had read,

* A pension of 200l. per annum was granted by his Majesty, in 1762, to Mr. T. Sheridan, without solicitation, as an encouragement to complete his English Dictionary, and as a reward for his literary labours.

immediately

immediately after his leaving Harrow, with minute attention, the works of our most eminent writers, and applied himself to the study of English composition in its various branches. Nothing, however but necessity could have induced him to exert his powers, as Dryden and many others had done before him, for immediate profit; for exclusively of an unaccountable propensity to indolence, which formed the distinguishing characteristic of his youthful days, and from which he cannot now be stimulated but by some great and sudden impulse, he has ever considered a mercenary writer, who is occasionally compelled to sacrifice his own conviction to the instructions of his employer, as a character truly wretched and contemptible. That he maintained his independence of sentiment there is no ground to disbelieve; but he had the prudence to conceal from most of his acquaintances whatever share he had in the fleeting productions of the day. He also directed his attention to the drama, as a subject, in every respect, calculated to reward his labours with fame and emolument; but disgusted with some sketches of comic character, which he drew, he actually destroyed them, and, in a moment of despair, renounced every hope of excellence as a dramatic writer. A poetical translation of *Asistœnetus* has been attributed to him, but the share which he had in that version was very limited.

But the views, which he may have then entertained, either with respect to the cultivation and

exertion of his genius in literary pursuits, or to the study of the profession to which he had been destined by his father, were all lost in a passion, that mastered his reason. He at once saw and loved Miss Linley, and from his first introduction to her indulged the hope of triumphing over every obstacle that opposed his happiness. That lady was no less admirable for the elegant accomplishments of her sex and the affecting simplicity of her conversation, than for the charms of her person and the fascinating powers of her voice. She was the principal performer in the oratorios, at Drury-lane theatre; and the science, taste, but above all, the enthusiastic feeling which she displayed in the execution of the airs assigned to her, are still remembered with delight. The strains which she poured forth were the happiest combinations of nature and of art; but nature predominated over art. Her accents were so melodious and captivating, and their passage to the heart so sudden and irresistible, that "list'ning Envy would have dropped her snakes, and stern-ey'd Fury's self would have melted" at the sounds.

Mr. Sheridan became her avowed suitor, and every idea of interest and ambition was absorbed in his passion. Her father, Mr. Linley, the late ingenious composer, was not at first propitious to his passion, and he had many rivals to overcome in his attempts to gain the lady's

affections. His perseverance, however, encreased with the difficulties that presented themselves, and his courage and resolution in vindicating Miss Linley's reputation from a calumnious report, which had been basely thrown out against it, obtained for him the fair prize for which he twice exposed his life.

Mr. Mathews, a gentleman then well known in the fashionable circles at Bath, had caused a paragraph to be inserted in a public paper at that place, which tended to prejudice the character of this young lady, and Mr. Sheridan immediately applied for redress to the printer, who communicated the author's name. Mr. Mathews had, in the mean time, set out for London, and was closely pursued by Mr. Sheridan. They met and fought a duel with swords at a tavern * in Henrietta-street, Covent-garden. Mr. Sheridan's second on the occasion was his brother Charles Francis, the late Secretary at War in Ireland. Great courage and skill were displayed on both sides; but Mr. Sheridan having succeeded in disarming his adversary, compelled him to sign a formal retractation of the paragraph which had been published.

The conqueror instantly returned to Bath; and thinking that, as the insult had been publicly given, the apology should have equal notoriety, he caused it to be published in the same paper.

* The house situated at the west end of Henrietta-street, now a china-warehouse, and partly in Bedford-street.

Mr.

Mr. Mathews soon heard of this circumstance, and irritated at his defeat, and the use which his antagonist had made of his retractation, repaired to Bath, determined to call upon Mr. Sheridan for satisfaction. A message was accordingly sent, and a meeting agreed to: Mr. Sheridan would have been justified, according to the most delicate punctilios of honour, in declining the call; but he silenced all the objections that were started by his friends, and the parties met at Kingsdown. The victory was desperately contested, and, after a discharge of pistols, they fought with swords. They were both wounded, and closing with each other, fell on the ground, where the fight was continued until they were separated. They received several wounds in this arduous struggle for life and honour, and a part of his opponent's weapon was left in Mr. Sheridan's ear.

Miss Linley did not suffer a long time to elapse before she rewarded Mr. Sheridan for the dangers he had braved in her defence, by accompanying him on a matrimonial excursion to the Continent. The ceremony was again performed, on their return to England, with the consent of the lady's parents.

From the period of her marriage, Mrs. Sheridan never appeared as a public performer. Her situation in the oratorios was filled by her younger sister,* Miss Mary Linley. Several lucrative

* This young lady died singing "I know that my Redeemer liveth!"

proposals

proposals were, about this time, made to Mrs. Sheridan, to induce her once more to charm the public ear, but they were rejected with disdain by Mr. Sheridan. During their residence in Orchard-street, they were subject to very distressing embarrassments; and it was not a very uncommon thing to want the necessary supplies for the day that was passing over them. Yet the firmness of Mr. Sheridan, in resisting every proposal of this nature, by which any loss of estimation in the eyes of the world might be incurred, remained invincible. He received a letter from the proprietors of the Pantheon, which was then about to be opened, offering Mrs. Sheridan one thousand pounds for her performance during twelve nights, and one thousand pounds more for a benefit, the profits of which they were to appropriate to their own use. The proposal of so large a sum as two thousand pounds, which might have been gained in a few weeks, was not even politely declined, but rejected with indignation by Mr. Sheridan, notwithstanding the earnest entreaties of his wife.

Mr. Sheridan, who was now encumbered with the cares of a family, felt the necessity of immediate exertion to provide for the pressing calls, inseparable from a domestic establishment, which, if not splendid, was marked with all the appearances of genteel life.

His

His attempt at dramatic composition, and the moderate opinion which he entertained of his talents in that respect, have been already noticed; but his charming lines to Miss Linley, and some occasional productions, which displayed with equal happiness his talent for natural tenderness of sentiment and brilliancy of wit, had secured to him no mean reputation as a poet. Thus compelled to become a candidate for public favour, he once more resumed his courtship of the comic muse; and having finished his play of the *Rivals*, he presented it to the Manager of Covent-garden Theatre, and it was accordingly represented on the 17th of January, 1775. This comedy was justly considered, by candid criticism, as a most promising essay for an author in his twenty-fifth year, but the public opinion did not exactly coincide with that of acknowledged judges of dramatic merit; and, in consequence of some slight disapprobation, it was withdrawn after the first night's performance. The partial failure of the piece has been attributed to the indifferent acting of Mr. Lee, in the character of Sir Lucius O'Trigger. For that gentleman, though allowed to possess considerable merit in parts of much more importance, had not sufficiently studied the whimsical humour and national manner of Irish characters. Whatever may have been the cause, Mr. Sheridan withdrew his play without any compulsion; and, having made some judicious alterations, both in the progress of the plot and

in

in the language, it was shortly after brought forward again, and received in the most favourable manner.

The fable of the Rivals possesses a sufficient degree of probability to render it interesting; the incidents succeed each other in natural progression, and the dialogue is witty, humorous, and characteristic, interspersed with pathetic appeals to the heart, but without those extraordinary effusions of excellence which, from the pen of the same writer, have since delighted the fancy and improved the understanding, on the stage and in the closet.

Had Mr. Sheridan's powers been evinced but by this comedy only, he would have been placed at no very great distance beyond the common crowd of play-wrights.

His next production was the farce of *St. Patrick's Day*, or *The Scheming Lieutenant*, a piece evidently written more for the purpose of trying his ability to excite broad laughter and humorous merriment, than with a view of enlarging his reputation. It was presented by him to Mr. Clinch, as a testimony of his good opinion, for the assistance he had experienced from that gentleman's excellent performance of Sir Lucius O'Trigger, in the Rivals, in which he had succeeded Mr. Lee. The farce of St. Patrick's Day was actually written in eight and forty hours, and was performed, for the benefit of Mr. Clinch, on the 2d of May, in the same year.

At

At the commencement of the ensuing season, he brought out his comic opera of the *Duenna*, a composition in every respect superior to the general class of English operas then in fashion. The plot of this pleasing piece, which deservedly retains its popularity on the stage, is simple, and incapable of producing much interest; but the elegance of the diction, the sweetness of the poetry, and the appropriate spirit infused into the characters, place it beyond all competition with the sing-song trifles which were then in high repute. The Duenna surpassed even the Beggars' Opera in attraction and popularity, and was performed seventy-five nights during the season, while Gay's singular production ran only sixty-five.

Mr. Sheridan's circumstances becoming about this time more independent, and his genius having struck out a line productive of fame and profit, he began to indulge in expensive entertainments, and he found no difficulty in extending his connections in fashionable life. "The "feast of reason, and the flow of soul," were seldom absent from the hospitalities of his house, and they were unquestionably very much promoted by the strength of argument and brilliancy of wit, which he could call forth in the hours of instructive enquiry or sportive conviviality, as well as by the charms of Mrs. Sheridan's conversation, and her fascinating powers of voice.

Mr.

Mr. Garrick having resolved to retire from the management of Drury-lane Theatre, a negociation for the purchase of his share of the patent was entered into with him by Dr. Ford, Mr. Linley, and Mr. Sheridan,* who, in 1776, paid the sum of 30,000l. for it.

It now became his interest to apply his talents in support of the theatre in which he was so materially concerned, and he immediately brought out the *Trip to Scarborough*, altered from Vanbrugh's comedy of the Relapse. It was performed on the 24th of February, 1777; and, though the dialogue was much improved, and the incidents judiciously altered, the audience did not receive it in a very favourable manner on the first night of representation, on account of the incorrectness of the performers in general. It was afterwards played to crowded houses.

His next production was the comedy of the *School for Scandal*, which has deservedly raised his fame to undisputed pre-eminence over all the contemporary writers, and conferred, in the opinion of the foreign *literati*, a lustre on the British comedy which it did not previously possess. The

* Mr. Lacy, whose property, on the death of his father, was estimated at 80,000l. is now, with a large family, in very distressed circumstances. The writer of this biographical sketch is in possession of several curious particulars with respect to the transfer of Mr. Lacy's property in the theatre to Mr. Sheridan, which will probably, at no very distant period, be given to the public.

School

School for Scandal was performed on the 8th of May, 1777, and attracted from that late period to the conclusion of the season, the most fashionable and numerous audiences. A play of such superior merit, and written by so young an author, was rewarded with unqualified applause. The critics of that time were anxiously engaged in extolling the beauties with which it abounds, and some of them were not wanting to discover others, that either do not exist, or are still unknown to the writer himself. The tide of public favour ran with irresistible impetuosity, and dramatic excellence, and the name of Sheridan, became synonimous. But, although it must ever rank as a finished piece in the simplicity of plot, in the natural progression of incident, in the faithful imitation of manners, in the vigorous and exact delineation of living character, and above all, in fertility of wit and felicity of expression; it is to be lamented, that the author did not apply himself with more care to improve the heart, and stimulate the public mind to the cultivation of morality.

The fashionable taste for Scandal is indeed exposed; but it is exposed to the laughter, not to the contempt and detestation, of the audience. It produces mirth, but does not excite execration. The hypocrite, who covers his abominable designs with the mask of honour and integrity, is indeed punished; but the punishment is not commensurate to the offence, and our abhorrence

tence is weakened by the unseasonable playfulness of the poet's satire. The author is too strenuous an advocate for dissipation of manners, and the vices of libertinism are too successfully defended.

Mr. Sheridan appears, in a great measure, to have forgotten the legitimate end of dramatic composition, and not to have been sufficiently sensible, that whatever is intended for the amusement of society at large, should also be capable of communicating solid instruction, and producing real amendment. It has been remarked, with some degree of propriety, that the characters of Joseph and Charles have been taken from Fielding's Blifil, and Tom Jones; and that the disguise assumed by Sir Oliver Surface has been borrowed from a similar incident in Mrs. Sheridan's novel. He has never published it, because, as a literary production, he says, he has no confidence in its merit: its success on the stage he ascribes to the acting of Miss Farren and Messrs. King, Palmer, and Smith.

Early in the following season, he produced the musical piece of *The Camp*, a temporary *jeu d'esprit*, which afforded much entertainment; and his *Critic*, written upon the model of the Duke of Buckingham's Rehearsal, came out on the 30th of October, 1787. The success of the Critic was complete and well deserved; and, though the subject had been very ably handled

to his ingenious predecessor, he succeeded in embellishing it with so great a variety of ludicrous incidents, and introduced such extraordinary novelty of satire, as to divest it of the slightest appearance of imitation.

The lamented death of the British Roscius, in 1779, furnished Mr. Sheridan with an opportunity of exercising powers of a very different nature; and he wrote the monody to the memory of Mr. Garrick, which was recited at Drury-lane Theatre, by Mrs. Yates, in the month of March, of the same year. The sentiments are, in general, appropriate to the occasion, and the poetry possesses strength and melody, but the effect was not adequate to the expectations of the author and his friends.

Notwithstanding the profits which he derived from his pieces, and the share he had in the theatre, which was very considerable, as he had obtained Mr. Lacy's interest in the patent, a property equally valuable with that of Mr. Garrick, and of course worth, on the lowest calculation, thirty thousand pounds, his pecuniary embarrassments had considerably increased. His domestic establishment was not only very expensive, but conducted without any kind of regularity. The persuasions of Mr. Fox, whose friendship he had carefully cultivated, operated with a firm conviction of his own abilities, in determining him to procure a seat in the house of Commons. For some

some time before he had endeavoured to qualify himself for public speaking, by declaiming at the private meetings of several of his most intimate acquaintances; and it was customary with him, like the logical disputants of antiquity, to start a subject of discussion, and *advocate* either side of the question, for the purpose of exercising his ingenuity in argument.

Mr. Sheridan was, about this time, honoured with the notice of a noble Duke, now high in office, and who then possessed great influence in opposition; and an application was made, through the medium of a common friend, to obtain his Grace's nomination of Mr. Sheridan for one of his boroughs. The application, however, proved fruitless, as the noble Duke had already completed his list, or placed little reliance on the parliamentary powers of his dramatic acquaintance.

Mr. Sheridan was not discouraged by the disappointment, and a general election taking place, in 1780, he resolved to canvass for himself, and chose the town of Stafford for the scene of his first political operations. In the adoption of that measure, he appears to have been actuated by several important considerations. The borough of Stafford was not devoted to the interest of any particular patron; it was free from all suspicion of ministerial influence, and the arts of corruption had ever tried, without effect, to undermine

the independence of the electors. At least, no legal proof has been yet brought forward to establish any instance of corruption. One of the late members, who again offered himself as a candidate, had not only become unpopular, but odious to several of the leading men of Stafford.

All these circumstances, strengthened by a pressing invitation, and a promise of the most zealous support from a principal gentleman of the place, induced Mr. Sheridan to propose himself as a candidate to represent the borough of Stafford in the next parliament. He accordingly proceeded to the spot, and was perfectly satisfied with the pleasing prospect of success that opened to his ambition. But although he experienced uncommon disinterestedness, and great liberality of conduct in the people of Stafford, a certain degree of expence which has, for a long time, blended itself with the purest proceedings of the elective system in this country, was found unavoidable, and our young politician's resources were not in the most flourishing state. He was soon convinced, that the moderate sum of one thousand pounds was a *sine quâ non*, which alone could bring the negotiation between the new champion of liberty and the independent electors to a successful conclusion. The money was at length raised, and one of the gentlemen, who contributed to the supply, has been since liberally rewarded with an opera share.

Mr. Sheridan was accordingly returned for Stafford, and from the moment of his introduction into the house of Commons, became a firm supporter of all the measures of opposition. Though he contented himself, in the commencement of the session, with giving a silent vote against the minister, he was indefatigable without doors in seconding the views of his party, and in exciting the clamour of public indignation against the measures of government. He constantly attended popular meetings and political clubs, and his pen was employed with success in several periodical publications. He had a considerable share in the *Englishman*, which was conducted with great acrimony against the administration of Lord North; and when the Rockingham party came into power in 1782, his exertions were rewarded with the appointment of Under Secretary to Mr. Fox, then Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

The death of the Marquis of Rockingham, and the unexpected elevation of the Earl of Shelburne to the important office of First Lord of the Treasury, completely defeated the views of opposition, and the ever-memorable coalition, for which even the strong plea of necessity is but a sorry apology, having been formed, Mr. Sheridan was once more called upon to carry on literary hostilities against the new administration. The periodical work of the *Jesuit* soon appeared, and several very distinguished members of the

party are confidently stated to have contributed to that production. A learned doctor, remarkable for his revival of the doctrine of the Greek philosoper, Pyrrho, and more celebrated for his attachment to a great character, whose name will last, notwithstanding his inconsistencies, while a single admirer of splendid and original genius shall remain in the world, than for any intellectual vigour of his own, has been mentioned as one of the authors of a paper in the Jesuit, notorious for its severe censure of an illustrious personage. The paper in question attracted the attention of government, and a prosecution was ordered to be commenced against Mr. Wilkie, the printer.

The legal proceedings were, however, carried on but slowly, and the coalition having gained a decisive victory over the new-fangled administration, formed by the Shelburne party, Mr. Sheridan was once more brought into place, and appointed, in April 1783, Secretary of the Treasury. It was extremely natural to suppose, that the Jesuit would not be attacked by those, to whose cause it had been devoted; but the spirit of prosecution, though allowed to slumber for a short interval, broke out with redoubled vigour, when his Grace of Portland was succeeded, as First Lord of the Treasury, by Mr. Pitt, and an entire change took place in men and measures.

The Attorney-General was obliged, *ex officio*, to continue the prosecution, the ground-work of which

which still existed, and Mr. Wilkie, who had the magnanimity to conceal the names of the gentlemen by whom he had been employed, was sentenced to an imprisonment of twelve months. The system of party-politics evinced in this instance, as it has in almost every other case, selfishness and ingratitude. The man who possessed the courage to expose his own person to punishment, and his circumstances to ruin, in order to screen those by whom he had been engaged in his professional pursuits, for the purpose of promoting their favourite end, was treated with neglect, and it will, with difficulty, be credited, that his expences have not been yet paid. It would, no doubt, be unjust to accuse Mr. Sheridan of having had any share in the transaction, as his acknowledged integrity must exempt him from all suspicion.

With what effect the talents of Mr. Sheridan were exerted in the discharge of his official duties, while he filled the situations of Under Secretary of State and Joint Secretary of the Treasury, it is immaterial to enquire. The whole of the time which he passed in these places was not quite a year, and the chief requisites to perform the duties of them are attention, punctuality, and dispatch—qualities in which his most enthusiastic admirers will hardly contend for his pre-eminence. Until 1783, he appeares to have been a figure introduced into the political picture, more for the

purpose of completing the group in the back ground, than of standing forward as a principal character. But the irresistible impulse of genius gave a sudden expansion to his powers, extricated him from the inferior estimation in which he was held, and placed him, if not in an equal rank with Mr. Fox and Mr. Burke, at least, in the very next to it.

His defence of Mr. Fox's celebrated East-India Bill was distinguished for logical precision; and though he had not, on previous occasions, delivered his sentiments with extraordinary ability, his speech on that interesting subject was so masterly, as to induce the public opinion to select him from the second class of parliamentary speakers. In 1785, his powers began to expand in proportion to the confidence which he acquired in debate, and his observations on Mr. Pitt's Perfumery Bill were justly admired for splendid effusions of wit and great force of argument. But the part he took in the consideration of the Irish Propositions, which were brought forward during the same year, was peculiarly striking, and raised his reputation as an orator to a very superior degree. In calling the attention of the house to the fourth proposition, he displayed a general knowledge of the interests of both kingdoms, and a depth of investigation which the most sanguine expectations of his friends could not have anticipated; and, from that moment, he

was

was viewed as a formidable opponent by the present minister, and looked up to with admiration, as a principal leader of the party to which he belonged.

Mr. Sheridan had many difficulties to encounter in his parliamentary life. His father was an actor, he had himself largely contributed to the entertainment of the public, and was the manager of a theatre. The prejudices of mankind, however ridiculous, are too often victorious over the claims of genuine merit, and would have, perhaps, prevailed in intimidating any other person than the man against whom they were, in this instance, directed. Fully convinced of his decided superiority over birth and fortune, he proceeded, regardless of personal reflections; and if his opponents succeeded in irritating him by the asperity of their allusions, he met them with manly resolution, chastised them with the lash of legitimate satire, or held them up to universal ridicule in bursts of extemporaneous wit, that have never been equalled in the British senate. The conduct of the Premier, in his unguarded allusions to Mr. Sheridan's dramatic pursuits was severely punished; and that dignified manner which should mark the behaviour of the first statesman in Europe, sitting in the first assembly in Europe, was, for a moment, transformed into the quarrelsome petulance of the *angry boy*. The correction was productive of salutary effects, and Mr.

Mr. Sheridan has completely triumphed over the splenetic and paltry efforts of his opponents to check his talents, and degrade his public character.

He was rapidly approaching to perfection, as a public speaker, and the impeachment of Mr. Hastings supplied him with an opportunity of displaying powers which were then unrivalled, but have since rather declined than sustained themselves with equal vigour. His speech delivered in the house of Commons, in April, 1787, on the eighth article, as stated in the order laid down by Mr. Burke, relative to "money corruptly and illegally taken," was allowed to equal the most argumentative and impassioned orations that had ever been addressed to the judgment and feelings of the British parliament. He fixed the uninterrupted attention of the house for upwards of five hours, confirmed the minds of those who wavered, and produced co-operation from a quarter, which, it was supposed, would have been hostile to any further proceeding.

Mr. Sheridan seems, at this period, to have been convinced of the necessity of indefatigable application and persevering industry, to support the splendid fame he had acquired, and accordingly prepared himself, with unremitting assiduity, to perform his official duties as one of the managers of the prosecution, instituted by the representatives of the people against Mr. Hastings, and

and carried on before the supreme tribunal of the nation.

In the long examination of Mr. Middleton, he gave decided proofs of a strong and discriminating mind; but when, in June 1788, he summed up the evidence on the charge, respecting the confinement and imprisonment of the Princesses of Oude, and the seizure of their treasures, his superiority over his colleagues was established by universal consent. His mind, indeed, appears to have been elevated by the importance of the subject; and he conceived its various relations with a perspicuity that was embellished by the noblest effusions of eloquence—

> "Animo vidit; ingenio complexus est;
> Eloquentiâ ornavit."

But however admirable his speech may be now considered as a composition, there were, at that time, several circumstances of magnitude and singularity, that conspired to give it a celebrity, which posterity will scarcely admit it to possess. To form a just opinion of this memorable oration, which occupied the attention of the court, and excited the admiration of the public, for five hours, it would be necessary to have heard Mr. Sheridan himself; and, to those who have not witnessed the correctness, strength, and animation of his elocution, it will be sufficient to repeat what was said by Eschines to the people of Rhodes in

in praise of the oration which had caused his banishment—"What applauses would you not have conferred, had you heard Demosthenes deliver it himself?"

It is difficult to select any part of it as the subject of peculiar encomium. The address, with which he arranged his materials; the art and force with which he anticipated objections; the unexampled ingenuity with which he commented on the evidence, and the natural boldness of his imagery, are equally entitled to panegyric. He combined the three kinds of eloquence. He was clear and unadorned—diffuse and pathetic—animated and vehement. There was nothing superfluous—no affected turn—no glittering point—no false sublimity. Compassion and indignation were alternately excited, and the wonderous effects related of the eloquence of Greece and Rome were almost revived.

Soon after this great æra in the public life of Mr. Sheridan, the deplorable indisposition of his Majesty, which plunged the country into a state of the deepest distress, led to the discussion of a question, exceeding in political magnitude every other national occurrence from the revolution of 1688 down to that time. The ministry and opposition essentially differed with respect to the means to be adopted for supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the royal authority, and Mr. Sheridan took a leading part in the attempts which

which were made to declare the Prince of Wales regent, without such restrictions as Parliament should think fit to impose. The favour in which he was held at Carleton House was certainly superior to that enjoyed by the most distinguished members of the party, and his conduct occasioned suspicions that have never been completely removed. His Royal Highness was very much in the habit of consulting Mr. Sheridan, and his answer to Mr. Pitt's letter, with respect to the restrictions on the regency, which was allowed to be dignified, cautious, and temperate, has been principally ascribed to the prudent counsels of this gentleman.

Mr. Sheridan's zealous interference in support of his patron is, perhaps, the only instance in which he can be charged with political inconsistency. The spirit of party, and the strong prejudices of the moment, are now consigned to oblivion; and, it may be fairly asked, whether he, or any other declared advocate of the rights of the people acted consistently in opposing the following resolution, which was proposed by Mr. Pitt, and passed by the British Parliament:—

"Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is the right and duty of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons of Great Britain, now assembled, and lawfully, fully, and freely representing all the estates of the people of this realm, to provide the means of supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the Royal Authority,

Authority, arising from his Majesty's indisposition, in such a manner as the exigency of the case may appear to require."

Mr. Sheridan's objection to the resolution did not arise from any statement, contained in it, respecting the *full* and *free* representation of the people, but he and his friends argued against the power of both houses, in any case, to limit the authority of the regent, and contended, that the immediate nomination of the heir apparent ought to take place, as a matter of constitutional right. Those, who are sincere admirers of the British constitution, as derived from the legitimate source of authority, will not readily coincide in the doctrines advanced upon the occasion, by the leading members of opposition. But the prospect of approaching power can quiet the most conscientious scruples, and silence statements that would otherwise have been proclaimed as the inalienable rights of Englishmen, and the palladium of public security.

While his Majesty laboured under the awful visitation of Providence, it would be an endless, and indeed, a painful task, to describe the dark intrigues and cabals, carried on to encrease the strength of opposition. Every art was practised, every trick tried, to add to the number of those who were willing to fall prostrate before the rising sun, and the artifices employed were, in several instances, successful, in seducing even the minds of persons, who had enjoyed the confidence, and

shared the munificence of their sovereign. The King, reduced to the most lamentable state, which humanity can conceive, was—

> "Deserted at his utmost need,
> By those his former bounty fed."

Several meetings were held at C—r—d house, and among the visitors were the Duke of Q——y, the Marquis of L——n, and Lord M—s—y. Mr. Sheridan was a constant attendant, and an illustrious personage condescended to assist at councils, which, it must be granted, were more influenced by a true sense of public good than by any selfish and interested motives. The plans of the party were, however, fortunately baffled by the unexpected recovery of his Majesty, and their reinstatement in place was deferred to a more auspicious moment.

Mr. Sheridan has since continued a strenuous opponent of the measures of administration, and is now, in consequence of Mr. Fox's secession, placed at the head of opposition. With the single exception of his conduct on the question of the regency, his parliamentary life cannot be accused of inconsistency. He professed in common with most of his friends, an enthusiastic admiration of the French Revolution, and considered the constitution it had formed, as a glorious fabric of human wisdom, erected for the protection of human happiness; but when he saw that constitution defaced

faced and polluted by the frantic and murderous policy of the successive rulers of France, he readily concurred in reprobating crimes, which were destructive of freedom and social happiness, and directly repugnant to the principles on which the revolution was originally effected.

He has ever been the zealous supporter of parliamentary reform, and the uniform friend of the liberty of the press and religious toleration. In financial considerations, in our political and commercial relations with Ireland, and more particularly in every important discussion relative to constitutional subjects, he has evinced great depth of enquiry, and acuteness of discrimination. He has frequently risen superior to the selfish drudgery of a mere partizan, and his spirited conduct during the awful crisis of the naval mutiny, received the thanks of the minister, and will be long remembered with gratitude by the nation. He expressed his conviction, that, whatever difference in political sentiments might prevail among the members of the House of Commons, the moment was come, when his Majesty had an undoubted right to call upon all his subjects of every rank and description, for their zealous co-operation in supporting the due execution of the laws, and in giving every possible efficiency to the measures of government.

Mr. Sheridan's voice is strong and distinct, but his delivery is often precipitate, and his manner

ner unimportant. He wants the dignity of Mr. Pitt and the fire of Mr. Fox; but in the ingenuity of observation, and the felicity of reply, he is not inferior to either of them in their happiest moments. He excels in raillery, which, at once elegant and severe, is peculiarly suited to the senate. Though he seems cautiously to avoid the use of figurative diction and splendid imagery in his speeches, his celebrated oration on the trial of Mr. Hastings is an ample testimony of his ability to introduce them with the most appropriate effect.

It cannot be denied, that his propensity to epigrammatic point and humourous allusion frequently exceeds the bounds of propriety, and hurries him to a levity of remark that is at variance with the gravity of the subject in discussion. We laugh indeed for the moment, but soon condemn the speaker for trifling with a great object of national consideration. When, for instance, on the motion for repealing the act for Suspending the Habeas Corpus Act, and on the measure for arming the country, in consequence of his Majesty's message, he has talked of "an army of six men, commanded by a taylor, and encamped in a back garret," and of "foraging in fruit shops, parading in Piccadilly, and taking the field in Rotten-row;"—who can avoid condemning what certainly is not authorized by the artifice, much less by the art, of eloquence? The

rules of public conduct, like the laws of the drama, are founded in consistency; and with the latter Mr. Sheridan cannot be unacquainted,—

"Singula quæque locum teneant sortita decenter."

There has appeared of late in his speeches a negligence, that is evidently caused by momentary indolence, or the want of previous application; and the observation made by the first statesman of the country, that "however greatly he admired the talents of Mr. Sheridan, he was confident that gentleman might exert them with more effect," is perfectly correct. "Honied assent, so pleasant to the taste of man," has ever been peculiarly grateful to Mr. Sheridan's feelings, and a cheer from the opposition bench, excited by some brilliant effusion of wit, has often suppressed in him any farther display of ability in debate. He had gained what he so much courted, and he resolved to preserve it undiminished.

Mrs. Sheridan died in June, 1792, and he has a son by that lady, who possesses considerable abilities. In 1795, he married Miss Ogle, youngest daughter of the Reverend Doctor Newton Ogle, Dean of Winchester. The issue of his second marriage is also a son.

His conduct as manager and principal proprietor of the first theatre in the kingdom, and his punctuality in the discharge of the duties contracted

tracted by him in that situation, have rarely been the subject of praise.

In private life, Mr. Sheridan is one of the most entertaining and instructive companions in the kingdom. His conversation abounds in witty similitudes, humorous allusions, and lively repartee; and when any subject of enlarged investigation is brought forward, the treasures of general learning, with which he has stored his mind, are proportionate to the exigency of the moment. It is, perhaps, in the knowledge of human nature that he surpasses all his contemporaries. His sagacity has been particularly exercised in discovering the character and propensities of his acquaintances, or of those with whom he has any business to transact, and he generally succeeds in converting this kind of knowledge to his own advantage.

After a retirement of twenty years from the stage, Mr. Sheridan came forward, at the end of last season, in the humble situation of the editor of Kotzebue, the celebrated German dramatist, and appears, in that instance, to have been more actuated by his interest as a manager, than by the generous feelings of a writer, emulous of lasting fame. To gratify the public taste for scenes of exquisite sensibility, supported by incidents, sometimes impossible, and, in almost every case, improbable; and to strengthen the exhibition by the attractions of striking machinery, scenic grandeur, and appropriate music,

was evidently the object which he had in view in that strange degradation of superior talents. The pressing wants of the theatre, and of those dependent upon its success, called for instantaneous relief, and the most likely mode of procuring it was an unqualified compliance with popular absurdity.

"For we who live to please, must please to live,"

is the only apology he can make, for the prostitution of his muse.

It would seem, that Mr. Sheridan had altogether forgotten he had written the *Critic*; for there are very few scenes or passages in *Pizarro*, which can escape the just satire and humorous ridicule contained in that production. He has, indeed, condescended, in his alteration of the *Death of Rolla*, to revive the character of the ingenious Mr. *Puff*; for the most prejudiced mind must feel how very pointedly Mr. Sheridan's observations in the Critic apply to the favourite tragedy of Pizzaro:—"Now then for my magnificence! my battle! my noise! and my procession!—Smaller things must give way to a striking scene at the opening; that's the rule:—A play is not to shew occurrences that happen every day, but things just so strange, that though they never did, they might happen." But the criticisms of Mr. Sheridan were no longer remembered; sound and shew triumphed over common sense; the numerous admirers of sensibility, tor-

tured to excess, were gratified; the votaries of pompous exhibition and romance were indulged in their favourite passion; and Pizarro, with all its defects, recommended by the joint reputation of Kotzebue and Sheridan, attracted more numerous and fasionable audiences than have ever attended an English theatre.

The speech of Rolla, exhorting the Peruvians to defend their king and country, their civil and religious institutions, against a ferocious band of lawless invaders, was highly instrumental to the success of the piece, and it is the only passage of the play to which Mr. Sheridan has an exclusive claim. The appeal to the people in support of their rights and national independence, is bold and animating. The striking image of the vulture and the lamb, is, however, used with more effect in his speech on the impeachment of Mr. Hastings; but his right to borrow from himself cannot be questioned.

The genius of the German dramatist is unquestionably of the first order. In conducting a passion through its most intricate mazes, he is, perhaps, unequalled, and he seldom fails to produce emotions of the most agonizing kind. But probability, the genuine source of concern and dramatic feeling, is too frequently violated. An instant's reflection is sufficient to expose the delusion of the scene, and destroy the interest which the skill of the poet creates.

Mr. Sheridan must be convinced, that, wi
the exception of Rolla's patriotic harangue, I
zarro is more indebted for its popularity to t
merits of the original, to the actor, the machini
the painter, and the composer, than to any
terations he has made, or to any judgment he h
evinced in adapting it to the English stage.
is to be lamented, that he has, by this motl
exhibition, degraded his reputation as the fi
dramatic writer of the country, and sunk hi
self to a level with the play-wrights of the d
to whom profit is every thing, and fame nothin
It remains for him to shake off that indolenc
which appears to have become constitutional, a
make a satisfactory atonement, by some work
genius, for his mercenary conduct in confirmi
the vitiated state of public taste, against whi
he contended, in 1779, with so much ener
and success.

THE HON. THOMAS ERSKINE,

THE subject of these pages, is the third ſon of the late Earl of Buchan, and youngest brother to the present Earl; the second holds an eminent ſtation at the Scotch bar. There are no ſatisfactory documents of the youthful part of his hiſtory. It is, however, well known that he entered very early in life into the navy, a ſervice for which he had imbibed a ſtrong predilection.

He went to ſea with the late Sir John Lindſay, nephew of the great Earl of Mansfield. He never, it is believed, had the commiſſion of lieutenant, but acted for ſome time in that capacity, by the appointment of his captain. His reaſons for quitting the navy are ſaid to have been the ſlender chances of his promotion, ; and having only ſerved as a lieutenant by the friendſhip of his commander, he was unwilling, after having been honoured with ſuch a diſtinction, to return to ſea in the inferior capacity of midſhipman.

He entered into the army as an enſign in the Royals, or firſt regiment of foot, in the year 1768, not ſo much from inclination, (as it is ſaid,) as becauſe his father with a ſmall and ſtrictly entailed eſtate, had not the means of aſſiſting him, with convenience, to purſue one of the learned profeſſions. He went with this regi-

ment to Minorca, in which island he spent three years, and continued in the army about six.

During the period he continued in the army, he had acquired considerable reputation for the acuteness and versatility of his talents in conversation. Mr. Boswell, who met him about this time in a mixed company in London, mentions, in his Memoirs of Dr. Johnson, the delight which the Doctor and himself felt from the ability of a gentleman, who was no other than Mr. Erskine, in discoursing on some temporary topic which, at that time, happened to be an interesting question of dispute in the circles of the metropolis.

Whether the consciousness of these powers, or the suggestions of his friends, or the embarrassments of a scanty income, first invited him to make preparations for the study of the law, it is of no importance to enquire. The resolution, from whatever cause it proceeded, must, in a great measure, have been supported by that internal confidence in his own talents, which is inseparable from great and elevated minds; from the spirit of adventure, which is incidental to genius, which overlooks slight obstacles, and is invincible by ordinary difficulties. There is a fashion among biographical writers, to discover in the person whose life they are writing, an innate original predisposition for the peculiar department of science or literature in which he has been eminent, forgetting that, in the nature

of

of things, the pursuit must be wholly accidental, and that "in every region of the air," the flight of powerful intellect must be equally lofty and vigorous. It has, however, been said, and we have reason to believe with truth, that Mr. Erskine had no merit whatsoever in the extraordinary adventure of embarking in so new and arduous a pursuit, but that it was literally and most unwillingly forced upon him by the importunities of his mother, the Countess of Buchan, after the death of his father; and that the hopes of succeeding in it were fortified and kept alive against his own prepossessions, by her counsel and persuasions. Although, in the privacy of domestic life, the greatest characters and the brightest talents may pass away without record and remembrance, she was a lady of most uncommon acquirements and singular penetration. She thought, no doubt, that she perceived the capacity of her son, and in the confidence of parental affection, planned out this scheme of his future destination, while he was absent in the army at Minorca.

Mr. Erskine was about twenty-six when he commenced his course of legal study. He entered as a Fellow-Commoner of Trinity-College in Cambridge, in the year 1777; and, at the same time, inserted his name as a student on the books of Lincoln's Inn. One of his college declamations is still extant, as it was delivered in Trinity-College Chapel. The thesis was the revolution of 1688. It displays

plays no ordinary powers of language, and it is easy to discover, in some of its passages, the elements, as it were, of that forensic eloquence in which he afterwards acquired so unequalled a pre-eminence. It would be too mean a praise to say that it bears very striking features of superiority over the declamations which are usually produced on those occasions. It gained the first prize, which he refused to accept, not attending Cambridge as a student, and only declaiming in conformity to the rules of the college. An Ode, written by Mr. Erskine, about this time, in imitation of Gray's Bard, is worthy of notice as a sportive production of his fancy: it has been lately published in the Monthly Magazine. It originated in an occasion truly humorous. Mr. Erskine had been disappointed by his barber, who neglected his usual attendance upon him, and prevented him from dining in the College-hall. In the moment of disappointment, hunger and impatience, he is supposed to have poured forth a malediction against the whole race of barbers, with a denunciation, prophetic of a future taste for cropping and unpowdered hair.

Mr. Erskine did not enter into the University for any academical purpose, but merely to obtain a degree to which he was entitled as the son of a nobleman, and by which he saved two years and a half in his passage to the bar. His education had been completed in Scotland before. His father, one of the most accomplished men

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of his time, had uniformly felt an extraordinary solicitude as to the education of his children, and actually removed from his family estate in Scotland for the purpose of residing at St. Andrew's, where he continued many years. During this time he procured for them a private tutor, one of the most elegant scholars of that part of the island, to assist their studies at the School and University. Mr. Erskine always pursued the study of the Belles Lettres with unremitted ardour, and had the advantage of imbibing from the most eminent persons of the day, that various and extended knowledge, which can never be derived from books, or solitary application. In order to acquire a necessary knowledge of the mechanical parts of his future profession, he was persuaded, by the judicious counsels of his friends, to enter as a pupil into the office of Mr. Buller, then an eminent special pleader at the bar, and since promoted to a distinguished station on the Bench.

It need not be dissembled that, during this period of his life, Mr. Erskine was subject to the necessities of a very limited income. He had been already married about four years, and was obliged to adhere to a most rigid frugality of expenditure. Of these circumstances of his history, many of the particulars have, with great ingenuousness, been mentioned to his friends by Mr. Erskine himself.

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In reviewing the difficulties he had encountered, and in contrasting them with the brilliant prosperity of his later years, he must now feel a peculiar gratification; because by an involuntary impulse he must have attributed his extraordinary elevation to the endowments allotted to him by nature, rather than to the caprice or partialities of fortune. The part sustained by Mrs. Erskine, before the cloud that overhung their first entrance into life was dissipated, is highly honourable to her feelings; she accompanied him to Minorca, followed his fortunes with the most cheerful constancy, and, while he was engaged in the pursuits of a most laborious profession, never suffered any pleasure or amusement to interrupt her in the assiduous duties of domestic life.

While he remained in the office of Mr. Buller he pursued the business of the desk with unremitted activity and ardor; and, on Mr. Buller's promotion, went into the office of Mr. Wood, where he continued a year after he had been in considerable business at the bar. Special pleading, though not unfrequently considered as the mechanical part of the profession, has lately arrived at a higher dignity than lawyers of former times were willing to allow it. The absolute and hourly necessity of it is now recognized by every one who is conversant with the business of our courts of justice. It consists in a sort of analytical

analytical correctness, and its highest utility is derived from the habits of artificial acuteness, which it imparts, and the nice and skilful subtleties, on which it is perpetually occupied. Although Mr. Erskine never practised as a professed special pleader, the notion of his being ignorant of that branch of the legal science, is founded in the grossest misrepresentation. No one understands the principles of that science more correctly; nor is any one more dexterous in the seasonable application of them, as a species of *law logic*; a phrase, by which the late Sir William Jones accurately defined the art of the Special Pleader.

In what manner our advocate cultivated the acts of popular declamation, does not clearly appear. It has been said, that he was an assiduous attendant at Coach-maker's Hall, where a debating club of some estimation was at that time held. But the style of Mr. Erskine's oratory bears internal testimony against this assertion. The eloquence that is cultivated in these societies is altogether of a nature, remote from the uses of the bar, or the senate. The debates of the evening are for the most part conducted by a set of speakers, or rather spouters, who vociferate a collection of crude declamatory sentences to a tumultuous audience, which, taking no cognizance of felicities of style or diction, bestows its applause on the orator, who makes the greatest noise,

noise, and acts his part with the greatest vehemence. Such are not the academic shades, in which English eloquence is nurtured. Perhaps the most distinguished of our orators have acquired their perfection in public speaking, more by silent meditation and study, than by declaiming in public. Unquestionably he can never be a good speaker, who has been habituated to that noisy rant, of which the greatest praise is a rapidity of utterance, and by which the rules and harmony of the language are exposed to perpetual violence, and perversion.

He had now completed the probationary period allotted to the attendance in the inns at court; and was called to the bar in the Trinity Term 1778. Mr. Erskine is a singular exception to the tardy advancement of professional merit at the English bar. It is not worth enquiring, how long he continued a mute auditor in the back benches of the court, amongst the crowd of young men, who may be, not unaptly, compared to the ghosts that linger on the banks of the Styx for a passage over the lake; but, by a singular partiality of fortune, he was not tortured by the "hope deferred," and the sickening expectation, of a brief in Westminster-Hall, which so many men of promising talents are doomed to undergo: an opportunity was almost immediately afforded him of distinguishing himself in Westminster-Hall. Captain Baillie, who had been removed

removed from the government in Greenwich Hospital by Lord Sandwich, then First Lord of the Admiralty and one of the Governors of Greenwich Hospital, had been charged with having published a libel against that nobleman, and the Attorney-General was instructed to move for leave to file a criminal information against him; this was the occasion of Mr. Erskine's first speech in court. In opposing the motion of the Attorney-General, an opportunity presented itself to him of entering into the merits of the case in behalf of Captain Baillie. He expatiated upon the services which had been rendered by his client, on the firmness with which he resisted the intrigue and artifice to which he attributed the prosecution set on foot against him.

In the course of this speech, he attacked the noble earl in a tone of sarcastic and indignant invective. Lord Mansfield interrupted him more than once, but the advocate did not abate of the severity of his animadversions.—It was at that time no common spectacle, to observe a man, so little known to the court and the bar, commenting, with asperity of remark, on the conduct of a powerful statesman who held an elevated post in the administration, and distinguishing himself by a species of confidence not usually felt in early efforts of public speaking, under circumstances that rendered it more prudent to abstain from personal severity, and to conciliate the court he

was

was addressing. These strictures on Lord Sandwich are unquestionably severe; but, if any faith is to be had in the testimony of his cotemporaries, both in office and in opposition, they are not unfounded. Colonel Luttrell, speaking of him in the House of Commons, observed of him, with a pointed eloquence, that "*there is in his conduct such a sanctimonious composure of guilt, that the rarity and perfection of the vice almost constituted it a virtue.*"

This was the first trial of his talents at the bar, having been called only in Trinity Term, and having been employed for Captain Baillie in the Michaelmas Term following. He is said to have been indebted for this opportunity to no interference, recommendation, or connexion. His acquaintance with Captain Baillie originated from his having accidently met him at the table of a common friend. Almost immediately afterwards Mr. Erskine appeared at the bar of the House of Commons, as Counsel for Mr. Carnan, the bookseller, against a Bill introduced by Lord North, then Prime Minister, to re-vest in the Universities the monopoly in Almanacks, which Mr. Carnan had succeeded in abolishing by legal judgments, and he had the good fortune to place the noble lord in a considerable minority upon a division.

To the reputation which these speeches conferred upon him, it has been said, that he refers the subsequent success he has experienced in his pro-

fession, and that, as he left the court upon that occasion, nearly thirty briefs were offered to him by the attornies who were present. He was now surrounded by clients, and occupied by business. Of the various cases in which he was employed, it would be absurd to expect any mention, as they consisted only of the ordinary and daily transactions of the Term and the Sittings.

The public feelings were now altogether occupied by the interesting trial of Admiral Keppel. Mr. Erskine was retained as Counsel for the Admiral; a circumstance that was owing to the ignorance which the Counsel, Mr. Dunning and Mr. Lee, (who were originally engaged,) displayed of the sea phrases, without some knowledge of which the case was in a great measure unintelligible. Mr. Dunning recommended Mr. Erskine as qualified for the duty, having been made acquainted with the manner in which he had passed the former part of his life.

The duty of a Counsel before a Court Martial is very limited by the rules and usages of the court: he is not permitted to put any question to the witnesses; but he may suggest to his client such as occur to him as necessary to be asked; nor is he suffered to address the court; and almost the only assistance he can render is in the arrangement of his defence, and the communication of such remarks on the evidence as are most likely to be present only to the minds of those

who are habituated to the rules of testimony in courts of justice. This service was most effectually and ably rendered by Mr. Erskine. Having drawn his defence, Mr. Erskine, personally examined all the Admirals and Captains of the fleet, and satisfied himself that he could substantiate the innocence of his client, before the speech which he had written for him was read. For his exertions on this memorable occasion, Mr. Erkine received a thousand guineas. It was the proudest office of his life to have saved a good and honourable man from disgrace, and even amidst the splendors of his succeeding fortunes, Mr. Erskine ought to look back on this event with renewed satisfaction and triumph.

He was now in possession of the best *second business* in the King's Bench.—By the phrase *second business* is meant that sort of business in which the lead is not given to the Counsel who are not yet arrived at the dignity of a silk gown, and of a seat within the bar of the court: but an event took place which called his talents into activity on a most memorable occasion. The riots of 1780 are alluded to. Every one knows the universal consternation, which at that time agitated the kingdom; when the security of the nation was threatened in the destruction of the capital. After the extinction of these tumults, the vigilance of the magistracy was exercised in directing the insulted justice of the country against the actors in that

that dreadful conflagration. The participation of these outrages attributed to Lord George Gordon is well known. On his guilt, or innocence, it would be indecorous in us to pronounce an opinion. There is a veneration always due to the verdict of juries; and it would be a sort of political blasphemy to call the rectitude of their decision into suspicion.

Mr. Erskine, however, was retained Counsel for his lordship, in conjunction with Mr. Kenyon, now the learned chief of the King's Bench. The duty which more immediately devolved on Mr. Erskine, was that of replying to the evidence; a duty, which he sustained with infinite judgment and spirit. His speech on this trial abounds with many of the most finished graces of rhetoric. It is rapid and impetuous; and altogether in that style and character which are most impressive in judicial assemblies. The exordium is after the artificial method of the ancients, who never begin an oration without an appeal to the tribunal they are addressing, upon the embarrassments and peril of the function they have undertaken. "I stand," said Mr. Erskine, "much more in need of compassion, than the noble prisoner. He rests secure in conscious innocence, and in the assurance that his innocence will suffer no danger in your hands. But I appear before you a young and inexperienced advocate; little conversant with courts of criminal justice;

and sinking under the dreadful consciousness of that inexperience."

There is, perhaps, no department of his profession, in which our advocate has reached higher excellence, than in his observations on evidence. The defence of Lord George Gordon required the exercise of these powers to their amplest extent; as the case on the part of the crown was supported by a variety of witnesses. Having delivered to the jury the doctrine of High Treason, as it had been established by the celebrated act of Edward the Third, and as it was expounded in the best authorities, he made a most dexterous application of those rules, to the evidence, which had been adduced. They who study this speech will observe, with emotions of admiration, the subtleties with which he abates the force of the testimony he is encountering, and the artful eloquence with which he exposes its defects, and its contradictions. "I say, *by God*, that man is a ruffian, who, on such evidence as this, seeks to establish a conclusion of guilt," he exclaimed, as he was finishing this topic of his defence. An impassioned mode of exclamation, which, though it may find some apology in the perpetual example of Cicero, is not suited to the chastity and soberness of English eloquence. Of this speech, the concluding sentence is truly pathetic. We scarcely hesitate to pronounce this to be the best effort of Mr. Erskine's talents: it does not, indeed, display the minute beauties of cultivated diction,

diction, nor those grave remarks of moral wisdom with which his later speeches, in imitation of Mr. Burke, are pregnant; but, considered in reference to the occasion on which it was delivered, it is a most astonishing effort of vigourous and polished intellect.

In the month of May, 1783, Mr. Erskine received the honour of a silk gown: his Majesty's Letters of Precedency being conferred upon him, as it has been said, at the personal suggestion of the venerable Lord Mansfield. To this distinction, his portion of the business, and his acknowledged talents, gave him an unanswerable pretension. Mr. Erskine is a remarkable instance of a rapid advancement to this honour, not having been at the bar quite five years. His business was now considerably augmented, and he succeeded to that place which had been so long occupied by Mr. Dunning.

It would be impossible, with the space allotted to this article, to give an account of the causes pleaded by Mr. Erskine, his exertions being, for the most part, occupied in the transactions of daily occurrence which are discussed in our courts of justice: of these there are no other documents than the journals of the day, from which fidelity of statement cannot be expected.

In no part of his professional engagements has Mr. Erskine deserved or acquired an higher reputation than in the mode of conducting trials for

crim. con. It has frequently fallen to his lot to be concerned in behalf of plaintiffs in these actions, a circumstance which has given him considerable advantage; for, besides the attention which is sure to be afforded to accusing eloquence, the sympathies of mankind are naturally in alliance with him who hurls his invective against the disturber of the genial bed, and the invader of conjugal happiness; and alarming as the frequency of these causes may be, yet the torrent of public licentiousness has received no slight impediment from the indignant feelings of the world, and the exemplary damages awarded by juries. To this honourable and useful end, the eloquence of the advocate is subservient. He calls into activity the slumbering emotions, and the virtuous sensibilities of men, into a sort of league against the crime he denounces. Mr. Erskine's speech, in the memorable cause of Sykes and Parslow, is still remembered, by those who heard it, as an uncommon effort of rhetorical ability.

Mr. Erskine has also been concerned in some of the remarkable causes for *crim. con.* on behalf of defendants. His exertions are well known in the memorable cases of Baldwin against Oliver, tried at York, and the recent one of Sir Henry Vane Tempest, in both which cases there were but one shilling damages; the husbands having let loose their wives upon the world, and, in some respect,

respect, being accessary to their prostitution. And, on these occasions, Mr. Erskine has done equal service to the cause of morality and virtue, by pointing out the infamy of unyoking the female passions from the restraints of conjugal protection and domestic attachments. His speech in Howard against Bingham will be long remembered at the bar: it contains a most affecting apology for the lady, who was married against her consent, while her affections had been bestowed upon another: it abounds with pathetic remarks on the harshness and cruelty of chaining down to a man, whom she hated, a young and beautiful woman, and, for purposes of family arrangement or ambition, dedicating her life to a reluctant discharge of duties, the obligations of which she could not perceive, and the conditions of which she could not sustain. In this speech there is no apology for vice, but an excuse for human frailty, which is pleaded with great warmth and great eloquence.

From the infinite variety of these causes in which he has been concerned, it is not extraordinary that he should have acquired too artificial and common-place a method of putting his topics: but it cannot justly be reproached to Mr. Erskine, that the perpetual reiteration of these transactions should, in a great measure, have exhausted his store of expression and of thinking on these subjects: this is not poverty, but exhausted wealth,—the indigence arising from too lavish a prodigality of his

opulence. He who looks for a perfect model of the style of Mr. Erskine, must examine his speech on the trial of Stockdale. When the charges against Mr. Hastings were published by the House of Commons, a Mr. Logie, a Clergyman of the church of Scotland, and a friend of the Governor-General, wrote a tract, in which those charges were investigated with some acrimony, but with considerable warmth and vigor: the pamphlet being considered as libellous, by a resolution of the House, a criminal information was filed by the Attorney-General against Stockdale, who was the publisher, for a libel.

In the course of his defence of Stockdale, Mr. Erskine urged many collateral topics in favour of Mr. Hastings, in a style of fervid and ornamented eloquence Adverting to the charges preferred against Mr. Hastings, he expatiates on the obvious absurdity exhibited by a power, guilty of rapine and oppression, in presuming to sit in judgment upon those to whom its authority had been delegated, and by whom its own tyranny had been exercised. He dwells upon the ridiculous conduct of a nation, proceeding in its iniquitous career of plunder and rapacity, in saying to the subordinate instruments of its usurpation, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther;" that a great empire was to be preserved by Mr. Hastings, and that it was only to be preserved by the means which were used to acquire it; by acts of rigorous and severe authority. He then takes notice

notice of the violation of human happiness, for which the nation was responsible, in the exercise of her eastern dominion; concluding the topic in the following strain of energetic oratory :—

" Gentlemen; you are touched by this way of considering the subject; and I can account for it. I have been talking of man, and his nature, not as they are seen through the cold medium of books, but as I have myself seen them in climes reluctantly submitting to our authority. I have seen an indignant savage chief surrounded by his subjects, and holding in his hand a bundle of sticks, the notes of his unlettered eloquence. 'Who is it,' said the jealous ruler of a forest, encroached upon by the restless foot of English adventure, 'Who is it that causes these mountains to lift up their lofty head? Who raises the winds of the winter, and calms them again in the summer?' The same Being who gave to you a country on your side of the water, and ours to us on this.'

This is, perhaps, a species of rhetorical ornament more figurative than our national eloquence, which does not tolerate the boldness of the prosopopeia, seems strictly to admit; yet it is impossible not to be struck with the sublimity of the passage. The exertions of Mr. Erskine procured the acquittal of the defendant.

Of this speech the faults and the beauties are equally obvious: it is too elaborate and artificial

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in its texture; its sentences are too much burdened with epithets, and it wants the charm and the ornament of simplicity: under some restrictions, it may be said *abundat dulcibus vitiis*. In the beginning of this harangue, he has displayed a regard for his own profession truly honourable to his feelings; and it is not the least praise which is due to his professional character, that he is never known to omit any opportunity of paying a tribute of respect to the bar, of which he is the most shining ornament and example.

Mr. Erskine was elected member of parliament for Portsmouth in the year 1783; an honour which he probably derived from the reputation he had acquired at the Court Martial which sat there on the trial of Admiral Keppel. His political character may be extracted from his speeches in courts of justice, as well as from his uniform conduct in parliament: whether the consistency of his course is to be attributed to a singular felicity of fortune, or to the demands which his business has at all times had on his time and his exertions, and which rendered his political ambition subordinate to his love of professional fame; yet the praise of inflexible patriotism, and a rigid adherence to the men and measures he approved, will hardly be disputed to him.

From no transaction of his life is a greater and more permanent reputation derived by Mr. Erskine than in his noble struggles in defence of the

the trial by jury. The law, as it is now expounded by Mr. Fox's Bill, which Mr. Erskine paved the way for in the courts, and seconded and supported in parliament, is a monument erected to his patriotism and ability. A strange paradox had crept into the judicial practice, which restricting the power of juries in questions of libel to the arbitrary interpretation of the judges, reduced it in fact to a shadow and a nullity. A rule derived from the venal opinion and practice of bad judges in bad times, was adopted by honest and upright men from real conviction, and a sense of duty in adhering to what they conceived to be precedent and authority. The question had already been frequently agitated in trials for libel. It had exercised the pen and tongues of the ablest lawyers, and had been discussed in the luminous and elegant letters of Junius. It was reserved for Mr. Erskine, in his celebrated argument in support of a rule for a new trial in the Dean of St. Asaph's case, to concentrate all the doctrines, and to combine all the reasonings, which lay scattered over so many volumes of legal learning. In this elaborate argument, he most triumphantly established his position; that juries were judges of the law as well as the fact. Upon the principles laid down in this speech, Mr. Fox framed his immortal Bill; which, though it received the most acrimonious opposition, in both houses of legislature, has at length happily rescued the question from controversy, by the establish-

establishment of a criterion, to which the rights and duties of juries may at all times be referred.

On the original trial of the Dean of St. Asaph, at Shrewsbury, where Mr. Erskine appeared as counsel for the Dean, a special verdict was delivered by the Jury, finding the defendant guilty only of *the fact of publishing*. Mr. Justice Buller, who presided at the trial, desired them to reconsider it, as it could not be recorded in the terms in which they expressed it. On this occasion, Mr. Erskine insisted that the verdict should be recorded, as it was found. This was resisted by the Judge, who meeting with unusual opposition from the Counsel, peremptorily told him to sit down, or he should compel him. "My Lord," returned Mr. Erskine, "I will not sit down—Your Lordship may do your duty, but I will do mine." The Judge was silent. It would have been more consistent with the dignity of the Court, if the threat, which he did not feel himself prepared to execute, had not escaped the learned Judge. Mr. Erskine concludes his argument in this case, with this sentiment:

"It was the first command, and counsel of my youth, always to do what my conscience told me to be my duty; and to leave the consequences to God. I shall carry with me the memory, and I trust the practice, of this parental lesson to the grave. I have hitherto followed it, and have no reason to complain, that my obedience to it has been even a temporal sacrifice. I

have found, on the contrary, the road to prosperity and wealth; and I shall point it out as such to my children."

The independence exhibited by our advocate on every occasion, threw upon him the defences of persons prosecuted for sedition or libel by Government. No reasoning can be more uncandid, than to infer that his political opinions had any real sympathy with those entertained by the numerous race of libellers, who resorted to him for legal protection. They know but little of the duty of a Counsel who reason in this manner. As a servant of the public, he is bound by the obligations of professional honor, to afford his assistance to those who engage him in their behalf. It is the privilege of the accused, in a free country, to be heard impartially and equitably, and to be tried by the fair interpretation of the laws to which he is amenable. They who imagine that the advocate identifies with his own, the opinions and acts of the party he is representing, are carried away by erroneous reasonings, tending, in their consequences, to deprive the innocent of protection, by denying a fair measure of justice to the guilty. This sense of duty Mr. Erskine has carried to an honorable extreme, not having been deterred from it by the malignant representations of party calumny, nor tempted to abandon it by the hopes and promises of professional promotion. His defence, however, of Paine, occasioned his sudden dismission

mission from the office he held as Attorney General to the Prince of Wales. It is unnecessary to inquire who were the advisers at Carlton-House upon this occasion; it is sufficient to say, that the measure was dictated by minds of too weak a texture, and too contracted a size, to comprehend either the duties of an English advocate, or the rights of an English subject. In justice, however, to the Prince, there is no reason to believe that he approved of the measure, or willingly acceded to it. In those moments of political phrenzy, it was forced upon him by those who could not feel the enlarged and liberal sentiments of that great personage on such an occasion, and who were not ashamed to make use of the most unworthy instruments of political artifice and intrigue, having no other political science than that of pursuing objects most familiar to their minds, by means most adapted to their understandings.

The most brilliant event in Mr. Erskine's professional life was the part cast upon him in conjunction with Mr. Gibbs, in the State Trials, in the year 1794. The accused gentlemen looked to Mr. Erskine as their instrument of safety. He undertook their several defences with an enthusiasm that rendered him insensible to the fatigues of a long and continued exertion: nothing was omitted that could elucidate their innocence; nothing overlooked that tended to weaken the force of the case stated against them by the Crown Lawyers.

yers. These trials lasted several days: the public expectation hung upon them with most inconceivable anxiety, and the feelings of good men and virtuous citizens accompanied the accused to their trial, with hopes, not unmixed with apprehension, that, from their acquittal, the liberty of the subject would receive additional strength and confirmation.

One of Mr. Erskine's latest speeches was upon the prosecution of Paine's Age of Reason. It is a signal blessing, in an age when the sentiment is openly undervalued and despised, that men of great talents should display a lively sensibility to the obligations of religion, as the best auxiliant of morality and conscience, and that they should employ their eloquence and their reason, the best gift of God to man, in impressing on the general mind the consolations derived from the truths it has imparted.

The character of this great man is reflected by the actions of a life spent in the active exercise of an honourable occupation. His various talents, even by the violence of party, have not once been questioned. To say that he is unequal in his intellectual efforts, is to say little more than may be affirmed of the greatest men who have flourished in eloquence, in poetry, or philosophy. Let him, however, who desires to frame a correct estimate of his powers, attend the Court in which they are hourly exercised: let him not build his judgment on an insulated specimen; let him pursue his mind, as it were,

to the context, and combine his diversified merits in the endless variety of causes on which he is occupied: let him remark the facility of transition with which he glides to the successive transactions of the day; the correctness with which he narrates and details their circumstances, and the unceasing pliability of his mind on subjects of such various and discordant natures.

It would be gratifying to exhibit the domestic character of Mr. Erskine. He has four sons and four daughters; and, in the bosom of his family, he finds a soothing relaxation from the cares and agitations of his public engagements. Whatever time he can snatch from the accumulated mass of labours with which he is surrounded, is devoted to social intercourses with his friends and his family. No man is endued with a greater share of constitutional vivacity *: he is sportive, and almost puerile in his relaxations; a circumstance not unfrequently found in the history of men of genius.

Upon these topics we cannot enlarge. In this memoir an attempt has been made to exhibit his public character with fairness and impartiality. Of his private virtues, it would be indecorous to make any enumeration. *Integritatem atque abstinentiam in tanto viro referre injuria virtutum fuerit.* Tacit. in vit. Agric.

C. H.

* We never have seen a portrait which does justice to the expression and vivacity of his countenance. We do not think the artist who drew the sketch in our frontispiece has been more happy than his predecessors.

THE REV. DR. PARR.

OF this profound scholar and upright man, we wish our plan would admit of a more ample account; as well to gratify our own feelings, by paying the tribute due to his extraordinary merits; as to indulge the curiosity of our readers, so justly excited by the celebrity of his name. But where much is said in commendation of a living character, a great deal will be regarded as adulation, or ascribed to the partiality of friendship; we shall, therefore, be cautious that we do not expose ourselves, to the suspicion of having wandered from the truth.

Doctor Parr was born at Harrow on the Hill on the 26th of January 1746-7. His father was a surgeon and apothecary of considerable practice. He received his education chiefly under Dr. Thackeray, and partly under Dr. Robert Sumner, at the school which has so highly distinguished the place of his birth. He was head boy at fourteen, and contemporary there with Mr. Sheridan, and with the late Sir William Jones.

From Harrow the doctor was sent to Emanuel College, Cambridge, where his genius and learning soon became eminently conspicuous, and procured him the notice and friendship of the first literary characters.

The activity of his mind was but ill calculated for the indolence of an academical life, and accordingly,

cordingly, as soon as it was possible for him to emerge from it, and before he was twenty years old, he became head-assistant in the school at which he had been brought up. He continued in that capacity, governing boys with whom he had played, till the death of Dr. Sumner. Having been a candidate to succeed him, but rejected on account of his youth, the doctor removed from Harrow, and opened a school at Stanmore. His disappointment at the former place served to manifest the attachment of his boys, who, we have heard, broke out in rebellion on the occasion. During his stay at Harrow, he was ordained by Dr. Terrick, Bishop of London in the year 1769. At Stanmore, among many others, Mr. Maurice, the learned author of "Indian Antiquities," and of a "History of Hindostan," became his pupil.

From Stanmore the doctor, in the spring of 1777, removed to Colchester, on being appointed master of an endowed school in that town; he there cultivated the friendship of Dr. Forster, and Mr. Twining, and spent his leisure in the most agreeable society. Thence, in the year 1778, he departed, to superintend a similar institution in the city of Norwich.

During his residence at Norwich in the year 1781, the doctor was admitted to his degree of LL. D. at Cambridge. His thesis was much applauded, and great importunity was used to prevail on him to publish it.

Hitherto he had lived unknown to the world as a writer, but the public now began to reap the fruits of his studies. Being requested to preach a sermon for the benefit of the charity schools, the force of his eloquence, and the beauty of his composition astonished and enraptured the whole congregation. Application was made to him a second time, on the like occasion; and again he lent his aid. The two discourses were afterwards published.

While the doctor resided at Norwich, the Rev. Edward Maltby, now Chaplain to the Bishop of Lincoln, and Rector of Bugden, ranked among the number of his pupils. Of that gentleman he has never been heard to speak, but in terms of the warmest affection and the highest applause. In the year 1783, Dr. Lowth evinced his wonted discernment of merit, and in token of his esteem promoted Dr. Parr to a prebend in the cathedral church of St. Paul.

In the year 1785, Lady Trafford presented him to the perpetual curacy of Hatton, a village in the neighbourhood of Warwick. Having resigned his school at Norwich, and likewise the living of Asterby in Lincolnshire, he removed, early in 1786, from the fatigue and hurry of public teaching, to reside at his parsonage in Warwickshire. Here the doctor, after enlarging and otherwise considerably improving the house, devoted his leisure to the private tuition of seven pupils,

whose minds he enriched with a taste for moral purity, no less than for literary excellence. His treatment of them was, in all respects, perfectly paternal: and an attachment as truly filial has been manifested by most of them towards him.

In the year 1787, the doctor assisted the late Mr. Henry Homer, formerly of Emanuel College, Cambridge, in preparing a new edition of the three books of Bellendenus "de Statu;" to which he wrote the celebrated preface: which is, perhaps, the finest specimen of modern Latinity extant in the whole learned world. To each book the doctor likewise wrote an appropriate dedication in his own inimitable manner—remarkable for strength of thought and felicity of expression. Of his engagement with Mr. Homer, and of the rise and progress of that work, he himself has given a minute and interesting detail in his last publication*. To that tract we beg leave to refer the curious reader for further and full information concerning a work, which, for keenness of satire, purity of style, and extent of erudition, has seldom been equalled, and never surpassed.

In 1789 appeared tracts by Warburton and a Warburtonian, "not admitted into the collection of their respective works." Of those Dr. Parr was the editor; and to the two tracts of a Warburtonian at the end of that singular volume, he wrote the dedication and preface.

* Reply to Dr. Combe's "Statement of Facts," &c. &c. &c.

Never,

Never, perhaps, was the literary world more surprised and delighted, than by the wit, eloquence and genius that shone forth in those very wonderful compositions: of which it is no exaggerated praise to say, that they unite the elegance of Addison, and the accuracy of Swift, to the gravity of Johnson, and the sublimity of Burke;—that they at once amuse, instruct, and admonish;—and that benevolence was never more conspicuous, nor candour more complete than is displayed by the writer, in all that concerns Jorten, Leland, and even Warburton.

Of this performance much has been whispered by the ignorant, the invidious, and the prejudiced. Let the doctor speak for himself*. As some of the "parties are dead, and as the controversies in which they were engaged have ceased to agitate the passions of men, this republication has not the smallest tendency to sow strife among scholars." Nor has any "strife" since been "sown," though ten years have since elapsed, and many scholars who revere the memory of Warburton, and love the virtues of Dr. Hurd, still survive.

On the occasion of the undertaking, let us again hear the learned editor. †"The Bishop of Worcester has not deigned to give a place to the following tracts, in his late magnificent edition of Warburton's Works. By re-publishing them,

* Tracts by Warburton, &c. P. 179.

† Preface to Warburton's two Tracts, at the beginning of the volume.

however, without the permission of the R. R. Editor, I mean not to arraign his taste or his prudence.—But among readers of discernment, the character of Bishop Warburton can suffer no diminution of it's lustre from this republication. They who are curious in collecting books, must certainly be anxious to possess *all* the writings of that eminent prelate. They who mark with philosophic precision the progress of the human understanding, will look up to Warburton with greater reverence and astonishment when "they compare the better productions of his pen with the worse." The same observations are applicable to the Tracts by the Bishop of Worcester. These tracts had first been published, and afterwards denied a place among his acknowledged works. He had an undoubted right to suppress them. Another had an equal right to restore them to the world. Literature could sustain no injury but from their concealment.

We will admit that subjects were revived, which that learned prelate might wish to have forgotten. In him, it had been, perhaps, indecoous, and certainly imprudent, to give them further circulation. But a writer not in his confidence, and even unacquainted with their author, had no suspicion to encounter by his interference, and no reproaches to dread from transgressions not his own.

If, however, one spark of animosity has been kindled between those two sagacious critics, and

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eminent divines, we know that it has long been extinguished; and we have reason to believe that they now "view each other with nobler feelings than those of forgiveness.*"

Early in the following year, Dr. Parr was introduced to Dr. Priestley.

"My first interview with him †," says Dr. Parr, "was at the house of a very sensible and most excellent man."—"Early in 1790, I revisited Dr. Priestley and his friends, in their endeavours to procure a repeal of the Test-Act. About a month or two after, Dr. Priestley and I met; and here begins a black catalogue of crimes, which have been long enveloped in darkness, but which I am now audacious enough to plant before legions of senseless and merciless calumniators in open day.

"I knew that Dr. John Leland, of Ireland, lived upon terms of intimacy with many English prelates—that Archbishop Secker preserved his acquaintance with Dr. Chandler—that Dr. Johnson admitted the visits of Dr. Fordyce, and did not decline the company of Dr. Mayo. When I myself too lived at Norwich, Mr. Bourne, a dissenting teacher, not less eminent for the boldness of his opinions, than for the depth of his researches, was very well received by the worthiest and most respectable clergymen of that city. I was, therefore, and now am at a loss to see why a clegyman of the church of England should shun the presence of a dissenting minister merely because they do not agree on doctrinal points, which have long divided the Christian world; and, indeed, I have always found, that when men of sense and virtue mingled in conversation, the harsh and confused suspicions which they may have entertained of each other give way to more just and more candid sentiments."

Indeed it seems strange to us, that two men so active, so ingenious, and so learned, who, in spite of their differences in religion, possessed much moral virtue, philosophic knowledge, and literary attainment in common, should

* Tracts by Warburton, &c.

† Sequel, &c. P. 20. Second Edition.

have lived five years within seventeen miles of each other without having met. A very few visits had been exchanged between them before an event took place, which never can be mentioned without disgrace to the national character.

"Animus meminisse horret, luctuque refuget."

The riots in Birmingham, which happened in 1791, will be remembered by the latest posterity not more for the numerous and diffusive mischiefs they occasioned, than for the meanness of spirit, blindness of rage, and intemperance of zeal, with which the mob attacked the peaceful abode of Dr. Priestley, and destroyed his library and philosophical apparatus. Europe has, in consequence, received that gentleman's farewel, and suffered a diminution of its philosophical importance.

Not content with wreaking their vengeance on Dr. Priestley, by burning his house, and plundering it of all that was most valuable to him-they resolved to extend their desolating ravages, and murderous designs, to every person in any degree connected with him. Hearing that Dr. Parr had been seen at the house of Dr. Priestley some months before, and wisely concluding that nothing less than a complete coincidence of opinion could have brought him thither, they threaten to bend their course towards Hatton, and burn his house and library also! Happily an end was put

put to these horrible proceedings ere the mob could accomplish their purpose, but not till the doctor had experienced the severest pangs for the fate of his family, and anticipated the irreparable loss of his books and manuscripts *.

It is well known that the pretence for these outrages, was a meeting held by the Dissenters on the 14th of July, 1791, in celebration of the French Revolution. In the Spring of the year 1792, it was pretty generally reported that a party still remained, stubborn enough to meditate another commemoration on the ensuing anniversary of that remarkable event. A step that might have brought destruction upon themselves, and the whole town. The report soon reached the doctor, who, on the 17th of May, began and finished, *in the same day*, his "Letter from Irenopolis, to the Inhabitants

"* Such and such only," says the doctor, speaking of the short intercourse that had subsisted between himself and Dr. Priestley, "has been my connection with him. And was it for this that, in a season of deep distress and dreadful danger, my principles were on a sudden gnawed at by vermin whisperers, and worried by brutal reproaches? That my house was marked out for conflagration? that my family were, for three days and three nights, agitated with consternation and dismay? that my books, which I have long been collecting with indefatigable industry,—upon which I have expended more than half the produce of more than twenty years unwearied labour—and which I considered as the pride of my youth, the employment of my riper age, and, perhaps, the best solace of declining life—was it for this, I say, that my books were exposed to most unexpected, most unmerited destruction?"

SEQUEL, &c. Pp. 103, 104. Second Edit.

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of Elentheropolis; or, a Serious Address to the Dissenters of Birmingham; by a Member of the Established Church." That extraordinary pamphlet, containing forty octavo pages, rather closely printed, on no very large type, produced an advertisement from the dissenters, in which, after professing the purest loyalty and attachment to the sovereign, they disclaimed all knowledge of any design to meet again.

This year, to accommodate Dr. Bridges, the doctor exchanged the perpetual curacy of Hatton for the rectory of Wadenhoe in Northamptonshire, with no view whatever to profit, much less from any inclination to change the place of his residence.

In the same year it was the doctor's fate to be engaged in a dispute with the Rev. Charles Curtis, the Rector of St. Martin's, Birmingham. Delicacy forbids us to say any more of that unfortunate misunderstanding, than that it gave occasion for the doctor once more to contribute to the stock of our national literature, by touching, in his own masterly way, on some of the most momentous topics in politics and religion.

Here we find that we owe a debt to truth, and we shall pay it. The anonymous author of "The Pursuits of Literature," with his usual confusion of statement, and facility of misrepresentation, has abused the Doctor for, first "printing a paper" himself, and then publishing a sequel.

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to it. Had that writer seen the title only of the pamphlet here alluded to, he would have found it to be "a sequel to the printed paper, lately circulated in Warwickshire, *by the Rev. Mr. Curtis, &c.* It would, indeed, have been ridiculous in any man to *print a paper* in condemnation of himself, and then to publish a reply to it in his own justification. But that bungling botcher of bad verse, and rancorous retailer of ribald prose, has had his reward. He has "outheroded Herod." But the arm of criticism has been uplifted against him, and crushed him with weapons of stouter metal than his own—"I war not with the dead."

The dispute which gave birth to "the Sequel, &c." has long since happily terminated. The parties have not forgotten to what profession they belong. A proposal handsomely made by the Doctor, was readily accepted by Mr. Curtis, and it led to a reconciliation. Of this affair the former has written * an account, with his accustomed accuracy and strength of feeling.

The year 1794 is remarkable for an event in the Doctor's family, which it would be unpardonable not to relate, as it must at once interest every fond parent, every kind preceptor, and every benevolent Christian.

If not one of the most forward in point of genius, at least one of the most promising of his

* Reply to Dr. Combe.

pupils,

pupils, in sweetness of temper and propriety of conduct, was the only son of John Smitheman, Esq. This amiable youth was seized very suddenly, about the middle of March, with an alarming illness and died in two or three days. The grief of his worthy tutor is thus described by one of the Doctor's friends:

"On Tuesday, 25th of March, 1794, I was sent for by the doctor, who, the messenger told me, was in the deepest distress. I instantly repaired to Hatton, where I found not only the master of the house, but the whole family, bathed in tears, and in a state of most dreadful agony. In short, any one would have thought that a darling child of their own had lain dead. The day was spent most sorrowfully. Early the next morning, after a messenger had been dispatched, to convey the melancholy tidings to the unexpecting parents, I retired from this scene of affliction, after promising to return the same evening. I came to Hatton again about sun-set. The doctor had gone, during my absence, in search of comfort, to his friend and neighbour Lord Dormers. Not long after my return he came home, and entered the library, where Mrs. Parr, her two daughters, and myself, were sitting at supper; he sat down, without speaking, by the fire, and sobbed like an infant.

"His attention, however, was soon called to the preparations necessary for the funeral, in the midst of which the wonted vigour of his mind returned, and he dictated to me one of the most pathetic and impressive funeral orations that, perhaps, has ever been written in any language. What follows will never be effaced from my memory.

"We were smoking our pipes together the evening before the interment, when it was told the doctor, that the coffin was about to be screwed down. He sat quietly for a few moments, and then hurried me along with him to the chamber where the body of the deceased lay. There, after a last view of the corpse, he ordered the whole house to assemble, and falling on his knees, while his grief seemed every moment as if it would choak his utterance, he burst forth into an extemporary prayer, so piously humble, so fervently devout, and so consummately eloquent, that it drew a torrent of tears from all present."

The funeral was conducted with great solemnity; and, in the chancel, over the grave, an elegant

elegant mural monument has been erected, with a suitable Latin inscription.

Having scrupulously discharged these sacred duties, the Doctor sought for consolation and relief in his books, and in devising ornaments for his parish church. By a subscription among his former and present pupils, and a few friends, he had already contrived to embellish it with two fine chandeliers; and this year a new east window, and one on each side of the chancel were beautifully painted by Mr. Eggington. The subject of the largest of these is the crucifixion; and the manner in which it is executed excites great expectation, from the future improvements of that artist, in every beholder. Still some literary exertions were necessary to rouse his mind, and, fortunately for him, he had been engaged before this event in a laborious piece of criticism, which being not yet finished, he was called upon to complete.

Early in 1793 the British Critic, a new Review, had been offered to the public, and had met with a favourable reception. From his acquaintance with the conductor of that work, he had been induced to lend it his assistance; and, accordingly, in the beginning of this year, he entered upon an examination of Dr. Combe's Variorum Edition of Horace, which had recently issued from the press. That work certainly derived no credit from the remarks of the reviewer which were carried on through five numbers

and distinguished by acuteness of penetration, solidity of judgment, and depth of erudition. The Editor was highly incensed at the critic, and, contrary to whatever we recollect to have been done before in any similar case, called upon him *by name*, to retract his own assertions, and refute his own observations. Baffled in that attempt, Dr. Combe at length published a small pamphlet intituled "A Statement of Facts relative to the Behaviour of Dr. Parr, to the late Mr. H. Homer and Dr. Combe." In that statement Dr. Parr was vehemently accused of breach of promise, violation of friendship, and even of want of veracity. How well and how successfully he defended himself against those charges will not soon be forgotten.

Dr. Parr, in his reply to the Editor, has given the whole history of the connection with Mr. Homer, from its commencement to the death of the latter. Most interesting and satisfactory is that account, and we believe the doctor's affection for his friend to have been most sincere, and the grief he felt at his death most poignant. Whether the Variorum Horace was first projected by Dr. Combe, or not, and whether Dr. Parr engaged to take any considerable share in it, or not, it is certain that Mr. Homer was to have been the principal conductor of that arduous undertaking, and probable, that the editor might be indebted to him for the merit which belongs to the execution.

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To do justice to such a character as that of Dr. Samuel Parr—to mark the extent of his erudition, to describe the powers of his eloquence, to show the vast magnitude of his genius, but, above all, to praise his virtues as they deserve, is a task that we reluctantly resign to some future biographer. In what we have written it has been our aim

"Nought to extenuate,
"Nor set down aught in malice."

But we must be permitted to affirm, that as a divine, he is sedulous and beneficent: That his politics are not the offspring, and have never been the tools, of party: That he is a warm friend, a tender parent, and a kind neighbour. As a preceptor, the treatment of his pupils has been paternal, and an affection truly filial has often been manifested by most of them towards him.

Dr. Parr has very lately declined taking any more pupils. His friends are numerous, and their conversation and correspondence, have been his principal solace and relief through many years of unremitting toil. It has been his custom, in various parts of the kingdom, to spend his holydays among them.

It has been, in such a degree, the doctor's pride to improve and embellish his church, that the decorations may by some be deemed too gorgeous. All the windows, except two, which belong to

to the singing gallery, are now painted; and the pulpit-cloth and the other furniture, are sumptuous and magnificent.

His library, which he himself built, on his coming to reside at Hatton, is a large well proportioned room. But, no longer capable of holding all his books, which, we have heard, he has since been obliged to distribute among other apartments. So voracious, indeed, and insatiable is his helluosity, that we doubt whether, if his books continue to accumulate as they have hitherto done, the whole house may be ample enough to contain them. For scarcity of edition, taste in selection, and wide range of literature, a more valuable collection has, probably, never been made by any single scholar, who was not a man of high rank, or splendid fortune.

About the year 1771, the doctor married Miss Maisendale, by whom he has had several children. Two only are now living. The eldest was married, not long since, to the eldest son of Col. Wynne. The other is unmarried.

X. Y.

DR. CHARLES

DOCTOR CHARLES HUTTON.

THIS extraordinary person, F. R. S. and member of several learned academies in Europe and America, is the present Professor of Mathematics to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich; having adorned that chair for upwards of twenty-six years, and greatly contributed, by his industry and judgement, to raise the course of education at that seminary to the most distinguished pitch of credit and usefulness.

That great talents, and the highest respectability of character and manners in life, do often emerge, by the force and energy of individual powers, from low and obscure origin, are facts, which, perhaps, have at no time been better illustrated than in the instance of this gentleman, whose distinguished abilities and application have raised him to the most respectable eminence in life and literature.

Dr. Hutton is a native of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in Northumberland, where he was born about the year 1737, of parents, who, though among the lower ranks in life, were always at the top, and among the most respectable, of their station; a circumstance which Dr. H. himself has also at all times preserved through the various conditions and situations which he has filled in life.

At an early age he was sent to a school in his native place, where he soon made a rapid progress in the first rudiments of education, being always among the foremost in his classes. In consequence of these promising appearances, his parents were encouraged and persuaded, by their neighbours, to continue this, their youngest son, whom they considered as the hopes of the family, at country-schools in the vicinity of Newcastle, till he arrived at near the age of manhood, while his elder brothers were sent to laborious employments.

Here he acquired all the little learning to be obtained at such village-schools, consisting of reading, writing, and accounts, with a little Latin, and the rudiments of practical geometry, mensuration, surveying, &c. In all the school-exercises, he was among the foremost ranks, and the chief favourite of his masters, not seldom to the envy and ill-will of his school-mates. If a question or calculation more difficult than ordinary occurred, he was sure to select it, being always emulous to be at the top of every thing in hand. Besides, having always manifested, from the earliest stage of infancy, an uncommon docility, notability, and simplicity, of manners, these endearing qualities rendered *Charles Hutton*, at all times, the wonder and little favourite of every one, more especially among the females of his acquaintance.

Mostly in this way was his early youth passed away, till the loss of his parents compelled him to think of some sort of employment for subsistence; and,

and, being without any regular occupation, he commenced country-schoolmaster about the 18th year of his age; a line of life in which he has continued ever since, in various places, with the most ample success, having risen by his talents to the top of his profession.

This commencement of his occupation was at the village of Jesmond, about two miles from Newcastle, where he remained a few years, instructing the children of that neighbourhood, and improving himself by close study, and eagerly reading all the mathematical and other books he could purchase with the savings out of his little income: by which means he found his mind and powers gradually opening, his knowledge considerably extended, and, with it, his ardent love for the mathematics, and thirst for knowledge in general.

In this pursuit, his exertions were greatly stimulated and his little stock of knowledge increased, by resolving the questions in that most useful almanac, the Ladies' Diary; a little work, which, though seemingly mean and insignificant, has been the occasion of rearing more mathematicians in this country than half the other books professedly written on the subject; a benefit for which his gratitude has amply repaid, by his annual labours for that little book, during an uninterrupted succession of more than forty years; by which endeavours that work has been raised to the highest pitch of respectability among the learned mathematicians in this country.

During the few years of his residence at th
place, too, another remarkable circumstance to
place in the condition of our young school-maste
by his becoming, for a time, a close and zealo
follower of the Methodists, and at length he ve
tured even to write sermons, and to preach amo
them. From his very earliest infancy, Mr. H. h
always been of a cast of mind and disposition
once serious, sincere, affectionate, devout. Ev
when a boy, of only ten or twelve years, by readi
some old devotional tracts, (for, he eagerly devo
ed all sorts of books that fell in his way,) he h
wrought himself up to such a pitch of enthusias
that, among other acts of devotion, he formed
little retired arbour in a wood, through which
path lay in his way to school, that he might st
aside to pray in it, for a few minutes, as he pass
to and from school.

And about this time he made a considera
sacrifice to the sincerity of this disposition,
destroying all the ballads and popular little boo
of tales and stories usually read at a tender age;
sacrifice the more extraordinary, as he had gath
ed together a great number of them, at the e
pense of all the little money that was given h
from time to time; the practice of collecting
mass of what he considered as curious boo
having been a predominant passion with h
through all the stages and changes of his life.
was never sufficient for him to read a book, s
then part with it again; but he must also posses

as his own, and add it to his collection, to have it always at hand to refer to on any occasion.

This devotional temper of mind had never entirely quitted him; so that, on falling in company with some neighbouring people of the sect of Methodists, he was the more easily led to join them, as he did for a few years, till such time as he removed into the town of Newcastle, where he gradually declined his connection with them.

This removal was about the year 1760. By dint of a continual perseverance, in study and reading, at vacant hours and late evenings, Mr. H. had now acquired, as he thought, such a stock of scientific knowledge and experience in his profession, that he judged his acquirements too good for the obscure village and little country circuit in which he shone with unequalled credit among several others of his profession, and that they authorized him in making a tender of his services in that town, the rich metropolis of a large district, where he might hope to be better rewarded for his labours, by instructing the children of the more opulent inhabitants, and that in the higher branches of their education, or at least, so far as utterly to decline the humble and painful office of teaching them to read: a plan in which he perfectly succeeded, in opposition to every extraneous difficulty that could be made to his success, difficulties which were both numerous and powerful.

In the first place, his very name was almost unknown in the town, having made acquaintance only

with two or three booksellers and school-masters, the latter of whom were more ready to impede than to favour his endeavours. In the next place, by selecting only the higher branches of the education of youth, and resolutely rejecting the lower, he formed new and unusual obstacles to success, by diminishing the chance for pupils, and introducing a novelty in the profession of school-masters with which the people were but little acquainted. Another obstacle was, that he at once indispensably demanded for his price of teaching more than double the sum that had usually been paid in that town for the like branches of education; a demand which withheld from his school many a pupil, whom he might otherwise have had. Finally, and, perhaps, most of all, from a hasty and unhappy marriage, which he entered into at the very time of his removal; a connection which he had been precipitated into, partly from the domestic turn of his mind, and partly from the natural warmth and temperament of his constitution, which it seems began at an early age, and accompanied him always through life.

From these and other causes, it happened, that it was some time before Mr. H. got into much employment, struggling with adversity and the cravings of an increasing family; distresses which were also accompanied with the disappointment of his expectations of domestic comfort from his matrimonial connection: forming altogether such a load of distresses as would have driven a mind of less

less integrity and fortitude to seek refuge in a desperate flight from the whole at once.

By force, however, of a regular good conduct, with improving talents and qualifications, he at length succeeded in triumphing over most of these difficulties, and became the chief teacher in the place for those branches of education which he had selected for his employment; maintaining his family in a style of decency and credit, always above others of the same line of life, beside making considerable additions to his stock of mathematical and philosophical books, which, during the thirteen years of his residence in the place, arrived at a degree which occasioned them to be much spoken of as respectable, and the more so, when it was considered how difficult it must be to procure many of such curious books as he there collected together.

During this period, Mr. H. made a rapid and continual increase of knowledge in all the mathematical sciences, of which he gave many extraordinary and public proofs, both by publications of his own, and by the resolution of certain curious and difficult questions in various periodical publications, as magazines, diaries, scientific repositories, and such like, more especially the mathematical questions in the Ladies' Diary, in his own name, and in Martin's Magazine of Sciences, under the signature *Tonthu*, being the letters of his name transposed.

The first of Mr. H.'s own separate publications was the little book on Arithmetic, for the use of schools, first printed at Newcastle in the year 1764, a work which has met with so much approbation, as has since carried it through ten very numerous editions. In printing the first edition of this work, to supply the want of proper mathematical types in so distant a provincial town as Newcastle, Mr. H. was obliged, with his own hand, to cut with the pen-knife, on the reversed end of old types, many of the algebraical characters that were used in the vulgar fractions and other parts.

After this beginning, Mr. H. next occupied his evenings in composing a large work on Mensuration, which afterwards came out in numbers, of a quarto form, the last of them in the year 1770, printed also at Newcastle. This was a very extensive work, of near 700 quarto pages, on mensurations of all kinds, both theoretical and practical, on a plan and to an extent far exceeding any thing of the name or kind that had ever before been seen: indeed, so high had the author's character risen in the public esteem, that more than a thousand subscribers were found to encourage the publication. The public esteem and expectation were not forfeited or disappointed in this work; which exhibited such traits of genius, industry, and acquaintance with the best of the more ancient authors, as were very unexpected and surprising. A second edition of this work, with improvements,

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was published at London in the year 1788, in a large octavo form.

The active mind of Mr. H. soon produced another specimen of his genius and industry, in a republication of all the useful parts of the Ladies' Diaries, from the beginning of that favourite little almanac, in the year 1704, to that of the year 1773. This edition was published in parts, or numbers, quarterly, beginning in July, 1771, and ending in July, 1775; making a collection of five volumes, viz. two volumes of the poetical, and three volumes of the mathematical, parts of the Diaries. These extracts were accompanied with large and numerous notes, supplying all defects in the original solution of the questions, &c. by means of curious and elegant constructions, calculations, and demonstrations; the whole forming a body of curious dissertations and questions, with their answers, &c. Each number was also accompanied by a few sheets of a new mathematical correspondence, of original essays, questions, &c. making up one volume, or mathematical miscellany, in which the contributions of our author himself made a considerable portion, but under several different fictitious names.

About the years 1771 and 1772, Mr. H. was employed, by the magistrates of Newcastle, as the fittest person in that place to make an accurate survey of the town and county of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; a tract of many miles in circuit, and a town, which, from the crookedness of the streets

streets and the uneavenness of the ground, is perhaps the most difficult of all the towns in the island to measure. Of this tract he made a most accurate survey and plan, which was soon after engraved and published, in a map consisting of two very large sheets of paper, containing also a neat abridged account of the history, trade, and population, of that curious place.

Althqugh Mr. H. had both these works in hand at the same time, namely, the survey and plan of Newcastle, and the Diarian Miscellany, he encountered another, not inconsiderable, work, which was rather of a temporary nature, occasioned by the sudden fall of Newcastle old bridge, which was borne down the 17th of November, 1771, by a very high flood, which raised the waters in the river about nine feet higher than the usual spring-tides.

This accident having given rise to many absurd notions among the people concerning arches and bridges, Mr. H. thought that the demonstration of the relations between the more essential parts of a bridge would not be unprofitable to such architects and builders as might be inclined, and capable of attending to the theory of arches. In consequence of such reflections, in the space of two or three months he composed, and got printed at Newcastle, a very learned and useful little book on the subject of arches, intitled "The Principles of Bridges; containing the mathematical Demonstrations of the Properties of the Arches, the Thickness of the Piers, the Force of the Water against them, &c.

&c. with practical Observations and Directions drawn from the Whole," in octavo, 1772. Although this work was produced with such rapidity, that his most intimate friends could hardly perceive it was begun, when it was already finished, in the midst of other public labours, it has not failed to give the most general satisfaction to architects and engineers, and a new edition of it has been long a desideratum with the public.

It is remarkable, that the printing of the foregoing works at Newcastle, viz. the Mensuration, the Bridges, and the Diarian Miscellany, happily proved the occasion of rearing and bringing to public notice the most excellent wood engraver or cutter that the world has perhaps beheld, in the person of the ingenious Mr. Bewick, of Newcastle, so much admired for his elegant execution in wood of the collections of beasts and birds, since published.

It being desired to have the figures to those three books executed in wood, and there being no artist of that kind in the place, or any person who had ever executed a cut of that sort; it was found, however, to possess a very ingenious young man, Mr. Ralph Beilby, who engraved seals and other little things in metal, &c. This rising artist, from his own ingenuity, assisted by some hints and communications of Mr. H. soon produced such mathematical cuts as had seldom been seen in such books, and which have hardly been much excelled.

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The [illegible] of the cuts in these works was [illegible], afterwards, when Mr. H. came to reside [illegible], near London, and in consequence [illegible] known to Dr. Horsley, now bishop of [illegible], this learned gentleman being about to [illegible] the printing of his complete edition of all the works of Newton, inquired of Mr. H. what artist had executed those cuts; and, in consequence of his recommendation, Mr. BEILBY executed the cuts for that work.

So great a quantity of business of this kind, both for the works of Newton and in Mr. H.'s three books before-mentioned, gave occasion to Mr. Beilby to unite with himself, in the execution of them, his pupil and assistant Mr. BEWICK, who has, in consequence of that circumstance, since that time risen to such perfection in that art, as to excite the wonder of all persons who view his specimens of execution.

After thirteen years residence at Newcastle, in a continued progressive increase in knowledge and respectability, Mr. H. removed to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich in the spring of the year 1778, where he hath ever since occupied the head office in the mathematical department, with increasing credit to himself and benefit to the public. The circumstances of this removal do him the greatest honour, having, without any interest, borne away the prize from a number of very able competitors, whose applications were backed with very powerful interest.

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The health of Mr. John Lodge Cowley (the then Professor of Mathematics there, who had succeeded the celebrated Mr. Thomas Simpson, in the year 1760) having so much declined, that he could no longer attend the duties of his office, the master-general and principal officers of the Board of Ordnance came to the resolution of permitting him to retire. When this intention became known, the master-general, Lord Townshend, was presently assailed on all sides by applications and great interest, to succeed him: but his lordship, being well aware how important offices may pass into the hands of improper persons, when taken on the recommendation only of great and powerful interest, highly to the honour of his judgement and honesty, declared, that he would not yield to any solicitations of interest, but that the place should be filled by the candidate who should best acquit himself, on a general examination of all the competitors, to be held at a time appointed, by four of the most learned and skilful persons that could be found, viz. the Rev. Dr. HORSLEY, (the present bishop of Rochester,) the Rev. Dr. MASKELYNE, (astronomer royal,) Colonel WATSON, (chief engineer in the India-Company's service,) and Mr. LANDEN, a most able mathematician.

By mere chance this resolution became known to Mr. H. at Newcastle; who, thereupon, without a particle of interest with the great, and without being at all known to any one, unless, perhaps, it might be by name, to some of the examiners, being

being conscious of his own powers, on which he solely relied, presently repaired to the capital, from a distance of near three hundred miles, to present himself a candidate for examination. At the time appointed, all the competitors, six or eight in number, attended the Board of Examiners, at the beginning of a week, by whom they were all separately examined, in a room apart, to prevent any one from taking advantage of the examination of the others. Indeed nothing could be fairer, nor apparently more impartial on the part of the examiners, nor any examination better conducted to answer completely the good and wise intentions of his lordship, the master-general. Every candidate was closely questioned touching his acquaintance with the several branches of the mathematical sciences; concerning their principles and properties; the knowledge and choice of books and authors, both ancient and modern; the various and best modes of teaching those sciences; with every other requisite that seemed proper in the qualification for such an office. This examination occupied the whole day till late in the evening; at the conclusion of which, the examiners delivered to each candidate a large collection of very difficult problems, in the more abstruse parts of the mathematical and philosophical sciences; requesting their attendance again at the end of the week, to produce such solutions to those problems as they might be able to make out.

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They met again accordingly; and, though all his competitors were in a manner at home among their friends, and in the midst of their books, to assist them in making out solutions to the problems; advantages of which Mr. H. was debarred by his peculiar situation; yet his knowledge and talents triumphed over all difficulties, and even over the private partiality which more than one of the examiners entertained for some of the candidates, as their acquaintances, and for whom they had made interest, by recommendation, before the appointing of an examination. For, at the conclusion, the Board of Examiners drew up, and united in a report of their proceedings to the master-general and board-officers, stating, that, though most of the candidates were sufficiently well qualified for discharging the duties of the office which was the object of their competition; yet there was one among them, a Mr. Charles Hutton, whom they found it their duty, in a more particular manner, to recommend to his lordship's notice for that purpose; on account of the very able manner in which he had answered all the questions of the examiners, and on account of his very extensive reading and knowledge.

In consequence, a very few days after, Mr. H. received at his lodgings a notice of his appointment to the office from the master-general, who had never seen Mr. H. nor so much as ever heard of his name before the present occasion. And how wise and judicious was his lordship's choice,

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in so novel a mode of appointment, has been fully manifested by the success of the experiment; by the very extraordinary credit of that branch of education at the academy; by the great number of excellent officers Mr. H. has qualified; by the very punctual and regular attendance he always gives to the duties of his office; by the importance of the extra-services he has rendered, in making numerous experiments for the improvement of gunnery, and by the books he has composed and printed for the use of the academy; and, finally, by the entire approbation of his Majesty and the governors of the academy, so often expressed on many occasions; and whose confidence in his judgement and integrity has been farther implied by desiring him successively to nominate and recommend the other two mathematical masters employed in the academy, a circumstance to which was owing the appointment of those two able masters there, Mr. BONNYCASTLE and Mr. EVANS.

Mr. H.'s settlement at the Royal Military Academy proved an important æra, not only to himself and the academy, but also to the sciences in this country. His new situation, near the metropolis, gave him better opportunities of consulting and collecting the most curious books on his peculiar branch of study, of which it seems he has made one of the best collections that have been known in this country. That situation, too, and the credit of the extraordinary mode of his appointment at Woolwich,

Woolwich, gave him happy opportunities of becoming acquainted with many of the first scientific characters in this country, as well as in other parts of Europe; by whose conversations and correspondence he was enabled to profit by fresh acquisitions of knowledge; and with some of the ablest and most virtuous of whom he has ever since had the honour to continue on the best terms of friendly communication.

In consequence of the advantage of his new situation, too, soon after his settling at Woolwich, Mr. H. beside his daily labour in the academy, set about, with great alacrity, a new and severe course of study of all the best books of science, as he procured them; with the view of better qualifying him for the execution of certain works, which, in idea, he had projected.

The first publication undertaken by him, after that period, was the compilation of that ingenious and favourite little work, the Ladies' Diary, to which he had for many years before been so creditable a contributor. At the moment of his arrival in London, on the business of the academy at Woolwich, he was informed of the death of the last compiler; and, a few days afterward, the future care of it was confided to his judgement and industry, by the Stationers' Company, with increased emoluments: a trust which he has ever since that time carefully discharged, by which the work has been raised to the highest degree of credit, and more than doubled the number of its an-

mathematical communications. In consequence of the satisfaction that was given to the Company, they have, at different times, entrusted him with the care and composition of other works, beside accepting his recommendation of other persons in the compilation of some of their publications.

Also, for several years, immediately after his settling at Woolwich, Mr. H. employed part of his time in writing accounts of mathematical and philosophical books, for the periodical reviews, monthly published in London. And, when his other avocations would no longer admit of his continuing such critiques, his recommendation of other persons to succeed him in that department was thankfully acknowledged by the proprietors.

The same year that Mr. H. removed to Woolwich, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, being introduced to that honour, by some respectable members, before their kind and honourable intentions were known to himself: and how well their expectations of his usefulness to the Society have been realized has been abundantly manifested by his numerous and valuable communications of papers printed in the Philosophical Transactions.

The first of these was, " A New and General Method of finding Simple and Quickly-converging Series, by which the Proportion of the Diameter of a Circle to its Circumference may easily be computed to a great Number of Figures:" printed in the Transactions for 1776. And the second was, " A Demonstration of Two remarkable Theorems mentioned

mentioned in a former Article of the Transactions;" also published in the same year 1776.

The next was a large and very important communication, in the year 1778, entitled, "The Force of fired Gunpowder, and the Initial Velocities of Cannon-Balls, determined by Experiments; from which is also deduced the Relation of the Initial Velocity to the Weight of the Shot and the Quantity of the Charge of Powder." This paper contains the account and calculation of a great number of curious experiments, with cannon-balls, made at Woolwich, in the year 1775, by himself and other ingenious gentlemen; and so assured was the Society of the value of this communication, that Mr. H. was honoured with the prize-medal of that year; the delivery of which to him, at the conclusion of an excellent discourse on that occasion, was the last act of Sir John Pringle's administration as president of the Society: a situation from which it was said he had been induced to withdraw in disgust, on account of ill treatment in his office. At the same time, also, Dr. HORSLEY (the present bishop of Rochester) resigning his office of secretary to the Society, Mr. H. became a candidate to succeed him; but which, on account of the particular situation of his competitor, Mr. Maty, and his family, was given to the latter. On this occasion, however, the Society elected Mr. H. one of the council, and also conferred on him the office of Latin secretary, for conducting the foreign correspondence, vacated by the election of Mr. Maty to

the reading secretaryship. And how well Mr. H. discharged the duties of that office may well be judged by the many excellent translations of foreign communications from the Latin, French, and Italian, languages, printed in the Transactions, in the several following years, till 1784.

In the Transactions of the same year appeared "An Account of the Calculations made from the Survey and Measures taken at Schehallien, in order to ascertain the mean Density of the Earth." The determination of the mean density of the earth was an important problem instituted by the Society; and the survey and measurements, for that purpose, were taken at and about the hill Schehallien, in Perthshire, in the years 1774, 1775, 1776, by the direction, and partly under the inspection, of Dr MASKELYNE, the Astronomer Royal: after which the Society confided to Mr. H. the important office of making the calculations, and drawing the proper deductions from them. This was a very laborious work, requiring many thousand calculations, which were completed in the space of one year. It was also of great importance in itself, as affording one of the best proofs of the general attraction of matter; and, besides great accuracy in the calculation, it was necessary the operator should possess no ordinary portion of genius and address to manage so very delicate a business, being in a manner of a quite novel nature. And perhaps the Society could hardly have discovered another person possessing the requisite qualifications in so eminen

eminent a degree. Indeed the conclusion of this work fully justified the Society's choice, the operation doing equal honour to the Society and to the computor. In the result, Mr. H. found that the mean density of the earth was in proportion to that of the hill Schehallien, as 9 is to 5; so that, whenever the actual density of the hill shall be ascertained, (which it seems consists of a solid mass of the hardest stone,) from thence the real density of the earth, in respect of stone, or of water, will also easily follow.

The year following was given another paper, by Dr. Hutton, intended as a supplement to the foregoing one, containing "Calculations to determine at what Point in the Side of a Hill its Attraction will be the greatest;" a desideratum very useful in such a problem, as the deviation of the plumb-line, by the attraction of the hill, is but small in any case.

The next communication, which was in the year 1780, was a very long tract on cubic equations and infinite series; in which the subject of those equations seems to be exhausted.

The next, in the year 1783, was a "Project for a new Division of the Quadrant." This is a project for adopting or calculating new tables of sines, tangents, and secants, to equal parts of the radius, instead of to those of the quadrant; in which way, the numbers in the column of arcs will denote the real lengths of the arcs, instead of the arbitrary division of 60ths, or degrees and minutes.

This was the last of Dr. H.'s communications to the Society; as it seems a stop was put to his usefulness in that way, by what was deemed a cruel act of oppression in the new president, which it seemed grew out of the following circumstances.

The adjudication of the prize-medal to Dr. H.'s paper, before-mentioned, on the force of fired gunpowder, had necessarily produced a considerable intercourse between him and the president, Sir John Pringle, while this learned veteran was drawing up the curious paper containing the speech he was to pronounce on delivering the medal to Dr. H. an intercourse which produced a mutual friendship and confidence, which ended only with the death of Sir John. This circumstance, with that of his not paying sufficient court and attendance on the new president, (a practice at all times hostile to Dr. H.'s natural disposition,) it was alleged, by his friends, produced a jealousy and dislike against him, and at length a determination of removing Dr. H. from his office of foreign secretary. For this purpose, it seems, the president procured a resolution of council, "that it was expedient for the foreign secretary to reside constantly in London." Dr. H. conceiving himself to have been affronted by this resolution of the council, went to the Society, and resigned his place, in a speech, which, though couched in modest words, and apparently conveying no more than an ordinary resignation, strongly spoke the language of injured merit.

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In consequence of these and other alleged circumstances of malversation in his office, the conduct of the president was loudly arraigned by Dr. HORSLEY, and other friends of Dr. HUTTON, in some violent debates; which at length concluded with the resignation of the secretaryship by Mr. Maty, and the secession of a number of the learned members. These proceedings took place in 1784; and accounts of them were given in several pamphlets published at the same time.

Soon after this, viz. in 1786, Dr. H. published a volume of mathematical and philosophical tracts, in 4to, containing a number of curious papers, which would probably have appeared in the volumes of the Philosophical Transactions had not the foregoing proceedings taken place in the Society. Among these tracts, which are all of them curious and original, is a long one, of near 200 pages, of great importance to the public utility of the nation. It consists of "New Experiments in Artillery; for determining the Force of fired Gunpowder; the Initial Velocity of Cannon-Balls; the Ranges of Pieces of Cannon at different Elevations; the Resistance of the Air to Projectiles; the Effect of different Lengths of Cannon; and of different Quantities of Powder, &c. &c." These valuable experiments were the result of the employment of the years 1783, 1784, 1785; and the account of them is accompanied with calculations, and followed by deductions of the highest concernment.

Beside these works, the active and patient mind of Dr. H. has produced several other useful and ingenious publications. As, first, in 1781, in a folio volume, "Tables of the Products and Powers of Numbers published by Order of the Commissioners of Longitude." A very curious work, of immense labour and calculation, which, it has been said, was chiefly owing to the industry of his present or second wife, a lady of extraordinary learning, talents, and goodness, who it seems has also assisted him on some other occasions of laborious calculations.

Secondly, in 1785, "Mathematical Tables; containing the common, hyperbolic, and logistic, Logarithms; also Sines, Tangents, Secants, and Versed Sines, both natural and logarithmic; with several other Tables useful in mathematical Calculations: to which is prefixed, a large and original History of the Discoveries and Writings relating to those Subjects." A history, which it must have cost many years painful toil in reading different books, and collecting the materials for it, and to describe in detail their contents, the inventions, and improvements, contained in such a number of scarce and curious books, in all languages. A second edition was printed in 1794.

In 1786, "The compendious Measurer; being a brief, yet comprehensive, Treatise on Mensuration and practical Geometry; with an Introduction to decimal and duodecimal Arithmetic; adapted to Practice and the Use of Schools." This is chiefly

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an abridgement of his large work on Mensuration, and has since gone through several other editions.

In 1787, in one volume 8vo, "Elements of conic Sections, with select Exercises in various Branches of Mathematics and Philosophy, for the Use of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich." This volume, which consists chiefly of practical exercises for the use of the Cadets at the Academy, was ordered to be printed by the Duke of Richmond, then master-general of the ordnance; on which occasion, Dr. H. had the honour to be presented to the King, and to kiss his Majesty's hand.

In 1796 came out, in two large volumes in 4to, Dr. H.'s "Mathematical and Philosophical Dictionary;" a work which is replete with abundance of curious and original matter, and it must have employed most part of the author's life in reading books, and extracting from them the materials for this work. We have heard it said, and can believe it, that one article, viz. the ALGEBRA alone, occupied no less than two years of the author's time in writing it, and reading all the treatises on the same subject to collect the materials.

In 1798, appeared the last of Dr. Hutton's publications, being "A new Course of Mathematics, in two volumes, composed, and more especially designed, for the Use of the Gentlemen Cadets in the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich." A work in which he has condensed into two octavo volumes,

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of a middling size, a vast body and variety of useful matter; and, though mostly on the elementary sciences, treated in a novel manner, with great neatness, precision, and even elegance.

In 1779, our author had the honour to be presented with a diploma, constituting him Doctor of Laws, by the University of Edinburgh; and he has since been elected honorary member of several learned academies, both in Europe and America.

It is no small credit to the economy and good management of his domestic concerns, as well as his industry, that, although he has always had a family to provide for, and his family has always appeared in a style of life and respectability above others of the same rank, by his own labours alone, Dr. H. has been enabled to realize a comfortable little independence, in a neat little freehold farm which he has bought; upon which he has built several neat houses, and which he cultivates in such a style, for his amusement, that he may be said to have reared a village and planted a garden in the wilderness. A circumstance by which the versatility and extent of his genius has also farther appeared; as well as by another, which is seeming still farther removed from the nature of his own profession; namely, a manufacture of bricks and tiles, which he carried on to some extent for several years, by the materials dug out of the ground on his own estate, till he was disgusted with the business by the villany of the workmen he was obliged to employ

ploy in the works. In this way, in the short space of four or five years, he made more improvements, and produced more curious specimens of the trade, than many manufacturers that have been engaged their whole life in the business.

Notwithstanding such extraordinary exertions and labour of body and mind, for so long a series of years, we are glad to observe, that Dr. H. still enjoys a very uncommon share of health and activity; from which we may reasonably expect to see still more of his very useful public labours. Though it is said he has never ceased to lament the loss of his very amiable youngest daughter, at the age of sixteen, in the year 1794, of whose very brilliant talents and accomplishments some account was given in the Gentleman's Magazine in the month of October that year; since which, it seems, he has unhappily never quite recovered his wonted spirits and liveliness. A. D.

LORD HAWKESBURY.

THE Right Honourable Robert Banks Jenkinson, son of the Earl of Liverpool and of Miss Watts, (daughter of Governor Watts of Bengal,) who died a few months after his birth, was born the 7th of June, 1770.

He was placed, at a very early age, at the academy of Parson's Green, near Fulham, where he remained

remained until he entered his thirteenth year. The noble Earl, his father, who had himself experienced the benefits resulting from the system of education adopted at the Charter-House, then removed him to that excellent institution, in which he continued for two years. His improvement in classical learning, during that period, was considerable; and his progress in literature was frequently exemplified, not only by correct and elegant translations from the Greek and Latin authors, but by several original compositions, which were allowed to possess taste and judgement, and are still preserved by one of his school-fellows.

A very short interval took place between his leaving the Charter-House, and his entering the college of Christ-Church, Oxford; and that interval was employed in a manner the most likely to prove advantageous to his prospects and interests in life. His father, perfectly satisfied with the result of his scholastic pursuits, thought it necessary to direct his application to objects of a more important nature, and traced out for him a line of study, adapted to qualify him for those high situations in the state, which he now fills, and to which he was already destined by parental fondness. He was furnished with a catalogue of the most approved writers on the different branches of public economy, and the perusal of them was earnestly recommended to him in the course of his collegiate exercises. Thus happily directed, and implicitly following the instructions of one, who

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was deeply versed in the accomplishments necessary to form, if not an eminent, at least an useful, statesman, he left the University with a greater knowledge of commerce, manufactures, and finance, than some of the learned professors, whose lectures on ethics, natural philosophy, and mathematics, he had attended.

His Lordship soon after visited France, and was at Paris during the demolition of the Bastille, and several other important transactions in the commencement of the revolution. While he resided in that capital, he was indefatigable in acquiring a correct knowledge of the characters and views of the leading men in the interest of the court, and of those, who, by their eminence of talents, or political intrigues, had obtained popularity. His communications on a subject, so materially interesting to this country, proved highly satisfactory to the British ministry, and furnished the *premier* with a very favourable instance of his Lordship's industry and discrimination.

On his return to England, he was elected, in 1790, member for the borough of Rye, in Sussex; but, not having attained his one-and-twentieth year, he passed the intermediate time in a tour on the Continent, and took his seat in the House of Commons in the year 1791.

Early in the following year of the same session, the Russian Armament, as it was called, supplied Opposition with an opportunity of censuring administration; and the conduct of his Majesty's ministers,

ters, with respect to the war between the Empress of Russia and the Ottoman Porte, became the subject of parliamentary debate. Mr. WHITBREAD supported, on that occasion, by the whole strength of Opposition, brought forward the following motions:

"1st. That no arrangement, respecting Ockzakow and its district, appears to have been capable of affecting the political or commercial interests of this country, so as to justify any hostile interference on the part of Great Britain between Russia and the Porte.

"2d. That the interference of Great Britain, for the purpose of preventing the cession of the said fortress and its district to the Empress of Russia, has been wholly unsuccessful.

"3d. That his Majesty's ministers, in endeavouring, by means of an armed force, to compel the Empress of Russia to abandon her claim to Ockzakow and its district, and in continuing an armament, after the object for which it was proposed had been relinquished, have been guilty of gross misconduct, tending to incur unnecessary expenses, and to diminish the influence of the British nation in Europe."

Lord Hawkesbury, then Mr. Jenkinson, rose early in the debate, and, in his maiden speech, combated the resolutions with a force of argument and a perspicuity of language that evinced a profound knowledge of the question under consideration, and afforded favourable grounds to believe, that he would at some future period become a distinguished parliamentary speaker. He peculiarly called the attention of the House to the dangers which threatened Prussia from the progress of the Imperial arms, and displayed a correct idea of the

the balance of power in conformity to the state of Europe, as it was then generally admitted, but which has since been so materially altered by those extraordinary vicissitudes, that baffle the projects of human wisdom and expose the vanity of assuming fixed principles in political calculation.

He was appointed one of the commissioners for India affairs on the 22d of June, 1793; and the activity with which he performed the duties of that important office, fully justified the choice of government. In May, 1794, he received his Majesty's commission to command the cavalry fencible corps of the Cinque Ports, with the rank of colonel in the army; and, in 1796, was re-elected for Rye. When Sir George Yonge was, in the beginning of the present year, promoted from the mastership of the Mint to the government of the Cape of Good Hope and its dependencies, Lord Hawkesbury was, without any solicitation in his favour, nominated to that employment, sworn of his Majesty's most honourable Privy-Council, and appointed one of the Lords of the Committee for Trade and foreign Plantations. His Lordship is married to one of the daughters of the Earl of Bristol, bishop of Derry, in Ireland.

His claims to notice, as a public character, are of a substantial nature. His mind is stored with the most useful acquisitions; and, though capable of engaging with success in the pursuit of abstract knowledge, or in metaphysical disquisition, he has wisely applied his faculties to the cultivation of that

that kind of information, the theory of which, being derived from experience, generally leads to unequivocal and permanent advantages.

In the principles of legislation, the *jus gentium*, and the *arcana* of the *corps diplomatique*, his proficiency is considerable; but he chiefly excels in a knowledge of the commerce and manufactures of his country, both in their domestic state and their foreign operation.

As a parliamentary speaker, he maintains a respectable rank. His speeches are not indeed distinguished for

" Thoughts that breathe, and words that burn;"

but his matter and manner are never trifling. His elocution is clear and correct, and his arguments are frequently enforced in an animated and impressive style. He certainly has not justified, by subsequent exertions, the opinion of his oratorical powers, which his first speech impressed upon the public mind; but an unguarded expression often depresses the confidence of the person who has used it, and discourages a bold display of talents, that might otherwise have equalled the most sanguine expectations.

" *The march to Paris*," uttered in the intoxicating moment of success, dwindled into ridicule, when its impracticability was established by defeat and disappointment. It was repeated with all the force of ironical invective by the Opposition-bench, and reiterated by the anti-ministerial writers. It soon found its way, with many ludicrous comments,

comments, into coffee-houses and places of amusement, and will probably be preserved in the tablet of public memory, while his Lordship shall retain an official situation under government.

In private life, the conduct of the noble Lord is of the most amiable kind. He is susceptible of every generous feeling; and, to his friendship, Mr. CANNING is peculiarly indebted for his rise in the political world. Lord Hawkesbury, uninfluenced by any motives of jealousy from the danger of future competition, to which the best characters are sometimes subject, viewed that gentleman's talents with admiration; and, though Mr. Canning was then on terms of intimate friendship with a leading member of Opposition, at once eminent as an author, an orator, and a wit, introduced him to the patronage of the Earl of Liverpool, who has since warmly interested himself in his favour.

DOCTOR ISAAC MILNER.

THE life of this gentleman exhibits a singular combination of ability, worth, industry, and good fortune. He was born in the West Riding of Yorkshire, near Leeds, of parents who could boast neither of rank nor property. While he was a boy, his father, who was a weaver, died; and the family, left behind, were Isaac, an elder brother

Joseph, and their mother, old and infirm. As th support of the father was wanting, it was necessa that double industry should be exerted, by the r maining branches of the family, to enable the even to live. The two young Milners were co stantly at their spinning-wheels by day-break, i the summer; and, in winter, they rose by candl light to pursue their labour. By this course of pe severing diligence, they were enabled, for a lon time, to maintain, with credit, themselves an their aged parent.

It was observed of these young men, by th neighbours, that they did not associate much wi their acquaintances in the village, when a holid or any other occasion invited them out to their a customed sports. Instead of this, they employe their vacant time in the study of a few book which chance had thrown in their way. This si gularity brought them into some notice; and th became frequently the subjects of conversatic among their neighbours.

With industry, and this love of study, they al united the strictest sobriety; so that it was gen rally predicted of them, by the neighbours, th they would one day make good figures in life.

Their fame at last began to spread through Leed a place which eminently abounds with opulen generous, and discerning men. A subscriptic was readily entered into, by them, to educate, an send to college, one of these young men; and J seph, as the elder brother, and one who, as ye the

they thought, had displayed the most talent, was fixed upon as the object of their patronage. Isaac after this was for some time thrown into the back ground; though destined at last to come forward, and exceed even the fortunes of his brother.

Joseph was sent to the grammar-school at Leeds; and the lessons he learnt there by day, on his return home at night, he taught Isaac; who discovered not only a liking for this novel study of the classics, but great quickness of parts, memory, and judgement, also. Thus passed three years; in the course of which time, it may be supposed that Isaac had gained a tolerable degree of acquaintance with the Greek and Latin languages.

But the time soon arrived, when Joseph was to be sent to college. This deprived the younger brother of the only assistant who was able and willing to give him instruction. The foundation of knowledge was however laid, and it was only necessary now to raise the superstructure. This, by a similar course of industry, with which he set out, was effectually done; so that, at the age of nineteen, he might be fairly called a good classic.

Having arrived at that age when it is usual for boys to be put to some trade, he was bound apprentice to a weaver. Previously educated as Isaac had been, the loom may not be supposed to have agreed with his disposition better than the distaff with that of Hercules; he had, however, like the old Theban, the soft influence of attendant charms

to reconcile him to his temporary captivity; for the Muses, both in the hour of labour and recreation, were his constant companions.

While Isaac was thus employed in the occupation of a weaver, his brother had finished his studies at Cambridge with considerable *éclat*, having ranked as *senior optime*, and gained the second classical medal. Soon after, he was ordained; and removing to Hull, held the curacy of Trinity Church, and became also master of the free grammar-school of that place.

Isaac, who had long compared, with no high degree of satisfaction to himself, the inglorious toils of a mechanic life, with the splendid honours and emoluments of a literary one, thought this a good opportunity to attempt an emancipation from a trade, no way congenial to his disposition, and wrote, therefore, to his brother an account of the progress he had made in literature; at the same time requesting to become an assistant to him in the school, for teaching the lower classes. However Joseph might wish to comply with his brother's request, he was resolved to proceed on sure grounds; and wrote to a clergyman of Leeds to call and examine his brother; and, if he found his attainments considerable, or his genius at all promising, to send him down to Hull. In conformity to this request, the clergyman waited upon young Isaac, who was then about nineteen years of age. He was found at his loom, with a Tacitus lying by his side. After undergoing an examina-

tio

tion for some time, in the course of which he displayed great accuracy of idea, much general knowledge, and an astonishing command of language; he was thought perfectly eligible to be sent to Hull. Accordingly, in a few days after, he bade adieu to the humble occupation of weaving for ever.

As mention has necessarily been made of Joseph Milner, with whom Isaac is now to reside, it may not be improper to give a little farther introduction to his character.

Joseph Milner having settled at Hull, as master of the free grammar-school, and curate of Trinity-Church, became, about the time of his brother's removal from Leeds, convinced, in a manner to which he had hitherto been a stranger, of many peculiar doctrines of Christianity; such as, the *New Birth*, *Justification by Faith*, *Original Sin*, and *Redemption by Jesus Christ*. Being a man, zealous by nature in every cause he undertook, he became, in support of these points, a fearless and animated preacher. With a conduct irreproachable, and an awe of sanctity which seemed to reside about his person; it is not to be wondered at, that he made great impression on his hearers. Those of them, who, by nature were gay, dwelt on his representations of eternal felicity with peculiar partiality, and already counted heaven as their own: the timid were alarmed at his denunciations, and saw nothing but perdition awaiting them: while, as they are called, the men of the world, who

cannot altogether renounce the dictates of nature and reason, ridiculed him as little better than a madman. This *timor deorum*, as Horace would have called it, thus seizing the mind of Joseph Milner, continued ever after to be the leading feature of his character. A Bible was always his pocket-companion, which employed his researches, whenever company or business left a vacant opportunity. This constant occupation of the mind on religious ideas, he used to recommend to his scholars, as the best means of counteracting the designs of their grand enemy. Nothing, to be sure, could be more effectual for that purpose; but the suggestions of nature, which are frequently laudable, and, at the same time, full as subtle as those of Satan, may be unhappily silenced by the same contrivance: it is necessary, therefore, to have the means of distinguishing the one from the other. Whether such a system is to be ranked among the imbecilities of the human mind, and denominated *superstition*, or esteemed a new era of awakened sensibility to objects of greater importance than those of sense, and to be dignified with the title of *religion*, may be, with some, difficult to determine. Certain it is, that Joseph Milner, for thirty years before his death, lived the life of a strict believer in Christianity; and, more than can be said of the generality of such persons, his life was answerable to his professions; so that, whether his conquests over the frailties and propensities of human nature be real or imaginary, he has the most indisputable

indisputable right to the praise of an honest man.

With such an example before him, Isaac, could not but imbibe some sentiments of veneration for the Christian religion; and his mind was no doubt tinctured with that particular view of its tenets, which distinguished the belief of his brother. His prospects were now turned toward the church; and, after having assisted his brother for some time, in the capacity of usher, he was removed to Queen's College, Cambridge; where he entered as a sizer.

Few persons ever came better prepared to the university, or with talents more likely to make a conspicuous figure. Beside his natural assiduity and good abilities, he had the advantage of being educated by a person, that had gone through the university before him, and that person also a brother; who must have been, therefore, a more sedulous instructor than any other person.

While an usher at Hull, Isaac Milner had made himself a complete classic. His knowledge of mathematics must have been very considerable, too, since, on the occurrence of any difficulty in algebra, it was usual with his brother Joseph to send to him for an explanation; which, though the elder brother might have been able to make out himself, yet the readiness of Isaac always saved him that trouble. In algebra, therefore, and Euclid, he may be considered to have possessed, before even he went to the university, a senior *op-*

time's knowledge. Another great cause of his success was the circumstance of his spending the long vacation at his brother's school in his original employment of usher. By these means, he had not only retained what he had learnt, but was enabled to add considerably, every year, to his Cambridge acquirements. All the time of his being an under-graduate was spent in indefatigable study. Confident in his abilities, he had fixed his eye upon the first honours of the place, and had perseverance and ability sufficient to ensure their attainment. In the year 1774, therefore, he became senior wrangler, with the honourable distinction of *incomparabilis*, and gained also the first mathematical prize.

This struggle for literary distinction, though crowned with success, was not attended with that only charm, which can render even success pleasant. Intense study had secretly laid the foundation of a nervous disorder, which may possibly continue, as it hitherto has done, to embitter his future life. The equal distribution of happiness seems not less true than philosophical; and, perhaps, the painless days and embroken slumbers of the peasant form no mean counterpoise to the most splendid rewards of literature.

This valetudinarian state of Mr. Milner may account for some peculiarities of his conduct; such as residing much at home, and being at church

Parcus cultor deorum et infrequens.

His

His retirement, however, is said to be employed in labours, which will one day add to his literary fame, and considerably benefit the world.

At Cambridge, Mr. Milner became acquainted with that ornament of the British senate and of humanity, WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Esq. This gentleman, though he had, from his earliest years, the advantage of a strict education, yet his sentiments on religious subjects are said to have received great confirmation from the clear reasonings and able deductions of Mr. Milner. Soon after the commencement of this acquaintance, the parties, together with Mr. Pitt, went on a continental tour; but had not proceeded far, before some political changes in this country called them back. A friendship, however, was cemented in this short time between them, which is not likely soon to be dissolved.

Soon after Mr. Milner returned from the continent, which was in 1788, he was chosen President of the College, to which, as a student, he had done so much credit. Before his election, this venerable asylum of Erasmus had greatly decreased in reputation, but began then to assume something of its ancient consequence, by the repletion of its numbers. It has always been the present President's wish that Queen's should not be behind any college in the means of instruction; he has, therefore, introduced men of the best abilities from the other colleges among the fellows of Queen's, who find in him a steady friend and patron. The interior

terior management of the college has also been much improved, by the correction of many abuses which were sanctioned by long prescription. *Deterius* is the tendency of every institution, unless this salutary interference of authority sometimes takes place. Few, however, like Milner, have fortitude enough to support the obloquy which innovation, however laudable, is apt to produce. At the time he was under-graduate, it was the custom for sizers to wait on the fellows, to dine after they had done, and submit to many other degrading circumstances. These servile distinctions, with a recollection how injurious they were to his former feelings, Mr. Milner has also abolished.

A short time after he became president of Queen's, he took out his doctor's degree, and was presented with the deanery of Carlisle. It is his custom to visit this place regularly every year, but he seldom resides there long. Hull, before the decease of his brother, (for whom he entertained a high regard, but called, on account of his methodism, his *strange brother,)* was the most favourite place of his residence. His lodgings were a complete work-shop, filled with all kinds of carpenter's and turner's instruments. He was accustomed here to relax his mind daily from the fatigues of study, by some manual labour. His lathe and appendages for turning were extremely curious, and cost him no less than one hundred and forty guineas. He had also a very curious ma-

chine,

chine, partly of his own invention, which formed and polished at the same time, with the utmost possible exactness, watch-wheels of every description.

A celebrated moralist of the present day maintains, that manual labour is one great source of happiness. It is evident that we cannot bear, without injury, for any long time, intense and uninterrupted thought; it is equally clear, that, when the mind, without any object of pursuit, is left to its own spontaneous sensibilities, it turns either to the future or the past; and, as we are either melancholy or gay, so is the prospect before us. This state, therefore, of sensibility, exercising the mind, not according to the real existence of things, but to their accidental impression, is seldom profitable; besides this, it can be no relief to a mind already wearied with deep thinking. Something is wanted for this purpose, which gently exercises the mental powers, on some corporeal movement. Manual labour, requiring just dexterity enough to abstract the mind from its accustomed operations, seems best to answer this end. Let it not, therefore, be a matter of surprise or ridicule, that a man, of enlarged understanding, as in the present instance, should stoop for amusement to the drudgery of mechanical employment. It is not even enough to call Uncle Toby's whims inoffensive, they were really useful; and our hobbies, whatever they be, are founded in nature, and indispensable to our happiness.

The literary productions of Dr. Milner are but few; but, as they bear the stamp of genius, they have procured him much reputation, and a fellowship in the Royal Society. They consist of communications to that respectable body; the first of which is dated 16th February, 1778, concerning the communication of motion by impact and gravity. Another paper treats of the limits of algebraical equations, and contains a general demonstration of Des Cartes' rule for finding the number of affirmative and negative roots: this is dated February 26th. In the following June, we find another communication on the precession of the equinoxes.

Dr. Milner, as a chemist, ranks very high. The French are said to have availed themselves of his discovery concerning the composition of nitre, which has enabled them to supply, without foreign assistance, the vast consumption of that article, used in the manufacture of gunpowder.

On the death of Dr. Waring, Dr. Milner, in 1798, was made Lucasian professor of mathematics, to which is annexed a salary of 100*l.* a year. Thus we see, with no other advantages, but those of ability and merit, a person rising from the obscurest rank of life, and, together with all his other literary distinctions, filling even the chair of the immortal Newton. Desert, crowned with success, must, to every generous mind, afford a high degree of satisfaction; while, at the same time, it holds out a fostering encouragement to those seeds of genius

genius which otherwise might lie dormant in the bosom of indigence and obscurity. Although a considerable portion of the life of Dr. Milner was employed in the laborious occupation of a mechanic, yet, untinctured with any former habits, his manners and sentiments eminently display the refined taste of the scholar and the gentleman; so that the very disadvantages, under which he laboured in the former part of his life, only so much the more enhance our admiration of his present attainments.

Urit enim fulgore suo.

THOMAS LEWIS O'BEIRNE, D. D.

BISHOP OF MEATH.

THE subject of this Memoir furnishes an additional name to grace the catalogue of those truly illustrious characters, who, by their private and public virtues, have triumphed over every opposition, and raised themselves to honourable eminence in society.

The difficulties arising from a state of parental obscurity were not the only obstacles which Dr. O'Beirne had to surmount, in common with several prelates of the church of England, still more distinguished than himself. Born and educated

cated within the pale of the Roman-Catholi church, he had, at first, to overcome the spirit c religious prejudice, carefully infused into a tende mind, and afterwards to contend with the force c public opinion, which is not apt to give credit t the professions of those who renounce an old, an unexpectedly embrace a new, system of worship He has, however, completely succeeded in im pressing the public mind with a firm conviction c the purity of his motives, and the natural mildnes of his temper, unperverted by the rancorous im pulse of new-born zeal, has excited regret, withou censure, in the members of the religion that los him, and admiration, without envy, in the reverenc teachers of the faith which he now professes.

Dr. O'Beirne was born in the county of Long ford, in Ireland, about the year 1748. His father who was a petty farmer and keeper of cows, highly esteemed for his integrity, after bestowing a classi cal education on the Doctor and his younger brother John, was so gratified with the genera opinion entertained of their natural and acquired talents, that he resolved, with the consent of the *titular* bishop of the diocese, to devote them to the service of him, to whom all their improvements were piously to be attributed. He immediately took the necessary measures to send them to St Omer's, in order to qualify them for the functions of the Roman-Catholic priesthood. The Doctor however, convinced of the vast importance of the sacred engagements into which he was solicited to enter

enter, thought it his duty to ascertain the truth of some particular tenets of his paternal religion with which his mind had, for some time before, been greatly perplexed. With this conscientious view, he was naturally led to a minute investigation of the subject, and it terminated, after a variety of struggles, in his sincere conversion to the creed of the established church.

Instead of returning to the county of Longford to perform the monotonous duties of a parish-curate among Irish peasants,* he turned his steps towards London, the proper scene for literary talents and adventure.

His brother, on the contrary, punctually complied with the wishes of his family and friends; and it is a singular circumstance, that they met, for the first time, after an interval of many years, the one officiating as a Roman-Catholic clergyman in the parish, where the other resided as a Protestant prelate.

* To a mind, whose views learning has expanded, and in which there is much of an active principle, scarcely any situation can appear more disgusting than that of a Catholic priest in a remote Irish county, where his intercourse must be confined chiefly to a class of men, whose minds, if not absolutely barbarous, are at best removed from barbarism by a single step; a class in which he can meet little but extreme poverty, gross ignorance, and offensive superstition. Mr. O'Beirne, before he left college, seems to have seen in this light the lot to which he found himself consigned, and he endeavoured to make an effort to fix himself in a better soil.

Dr.

Dr. O'Beirne was chaplain in the fleet under the command of Earl Howe, during a considerable part of the American war. He so eminently distinguished himself in that situation by the piety of his conduct, the excellency of his sermons, and the strictness of his attention to official duties, that he soon attracted the notice of the noble admiral, and was at length promoted to the chaplaincy of the flag-ship, the Eagle, of 64 guns. His conversation and manners, which have ever been peculiarly pleasing, soon accomplished for him what his reputation as a clergyman had commenced, and he was honoured with the confidence of the commander-in-chief.

The calamitous fire, which happened at New York in 1776, supplied him with an opportunity of displaying the docrines of Christianity in the most edifying and consolatory manner. To make the precept and practice of the gospel go hand in hand had been his constant study from the moment he entered into holy orders; and, while he cultivated, in private, every mean within his power to soften the horrors and alleviate the miseries of war, he was appointed to preach in St. Paul's church, the only one in New York which had been preserved from the fury of the flames. His discourse on that melancholy occasion has been often mentioned as the effusion of a mind animated with the purest sentiments of charity and brotherly love, and it has been justly praised as

as a composition remarkable for dignified and pathetic eloquence.

On his return from America, when the conduct of Lord Howe, and more particularly that of his brother, Sir William Howe, with respect to the direction and execution of military operations, became the subject of general animadversion and parliamentary inquiry, and was boldly censured in newspapers and pamphlets, supposed to be written by persons in high credit and confidence with ministry; Dr. O'Beirne came forward in defence of his friends and patrons, (for, he was also much esteemed by Sir William,) and published a pamphlet in vindication of them, that had an extensive circulation, and was extolled by the adherents of the general and admiral.

While Mr. O'Beirne served in America, he had strengthened his connection with his patrons by a new tie: he married a lady, who, it is said, was the particular friend of Sir William Howe, and whose interest he was inclined to promote from the strongest motives. Thus allied, as it may be said, to the Howes, and thus distinguished by his zeal in their service, it is not to be wondered that they took care to patronize him.

His introduction to the leading members of Opposition happened in the year 1779, through the medium of Lord Howe and Sir William, who were received with open arms by the opponents of ministry, as they fondly indulged in the hope that they should, from such a connection, find

grounds sufficient for condemning the measures of administration, and transferring to themselves the reins of power. Dr. O'Beirne was, after a short time, particularly countenanced by the Duke of Portland, who frequently expressed, without reserve, the satisfaction he derived from the pleasant and instructive conversation of his new acquaintance.

In order to recommend himself more effectually to that party, he wrote a spirited pamphlet in their favour, called "The Gleam of Comfort." It was highly applauded by the writers and friends of Opposition, and was generally allowed to possess no inconsiderable degree of merit. In March, 1782, when the Rockingham party came into power, he accompanied the Duke of Portland, then his avowed patron, and appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland, to that country as his private secretary. He was also nominated one of his chaplains. But it unfortunately happened that his Grace had not, from the short duration of his government, which did not last quite four months, any opportunity of providing, as he wished, for his reverend *protégé*.

An anecdote related of Dr. O'Beirne, during his residence in Ireland, as private secretary to the lord-lieutenant, and with the authenticity of which we have good reasons to be satisfied, will more fully lay open the secret recesses of his heart than a thousand volumes written by panegyrists, whose only documents are the actions of his public life.

One

One of his oldest acquaintances, of the name of Hagarty, who had been, for many years, employed in the Excise, was superannuated, and obliged to retire, with a large family, on the miserable salary of 10*l.* per annum. He had heard of the Doctor's preferment, and was advised to solicit his interest. Though he at first declined the advice, from motives of despair or bashfulness, necessity at length silenced his scruples, and he sent a letter to the secretary. Dr. O'Beirne immediately dispatched a messenger for him, received him in the most friendly manner, and assured him, "that, though he had never applied to the lord-lieutenant for a favour, he would do so on the present occasion, both on account of their former acquaintance, and the distress to which a numerous and helpless family was exposed. If he succeeded, Hagarty should of course be re-placed on the establishment; if not, he would cheerfully allow him a yearly sum out of his private purse equal to that which he received when in full employment." It is almost needless to add that he did succeed, and that poor Hagarty and his family were rescued from ruin.

The death of the Marquis of Rockingham having led to the dissolution of the administration formed under his auspices, the Duke of Portland was succeeded in the government of Ireland by the Marquis of Buckingham, then Earl Temple, in July, 1782, and returned to London with his private secretary and chaplain. His Grace, now

perfectly convinced, from his experience in Irish affairs, of the Doctor's talents for political business, employed his pen and had recourse to his advice on almost every important occasion. He was initiated in all the mysteries of Opposition, and assisted at several secret conferences held by its leaders. He became peculiarly attached to Mr. Fox, and we are enabled to state, that his admiration of that great statesman's powers and virtues has not been diminished by the extraordinary changes which have since appeared to take place in political sentiment.

The idea of the ever-memorable coalition was then suggested as the only certain mode of hurling from the helm of power rivals, who had dared to intercept and monopolize the fruits of so many painful, but successful, labours; who had presumed to appropriate to themselves the spoils of that political *Troy*, which had only fallen after a desperate siege of ten years, and in the breaches of which *they* had not ventured to expose themselves, until a triumphant entrance was no longer doubtful. It was accordingly agreed to, and succeeded. But the victory was transient; and even the moment of exultation was darkened with prognostics of speedy disappointment and defeat.

When the Duke of Portland was raised to the important office of first lord of the Treasury, in April, 1783, he appointed Dr. O'Beirne his private secretary. He performed the duties of the situation with great industry for upwards of eight months, when

when the coalition was, in its turn, divested of authority, and compelled to retire. He had not, however, been neglected by his patron; for, on the day previous to the nomination of Mr. Pitt as first lord of the Treasury, he was put into possession of two livings situated in Northumberland and Cumberland, valued at nearly 700*l.* a year, which were in the gift of government. The manner in which these livings were conferred on him both by the zealous interference of his noble patron and the prompt assistance of a noble lord now very high in legal honours, served to inspire him with additional ardour in support of his political friends, and he carried his gratitude and enthusiasm so far as to appear the public attendant of "*the man of the people.*" When Mr. Fox's carriage was drawn by the populace into the court of Devonshire-house, the Duke of Norfolk was seated on the box, and Colonel North with Dr. O'Beirne thought themselves honoured in standing behind it as inferior, but necessary, figures, to complete the group of the patriotic pageant.

The French revolution produced a revolution of political doctrine in the mind of the Duke of Portland, and the ideas of the ex-secretary continued to revolve in co-incidence with those of his noble patron. "The Gleam of Comfort," which Dr. O'Beirne had viewed some years at a distance, was now brightening into meridian lustre, and his days of labour and nights of contemplation were soon to be rewarded with the honours of episcopacy.

He accompanied Earl Fitzwilliam to Ireland, as his first chaplain, and was made Bishop of Ossory. He has been since translated, on the death of the Honourable Dr. Maxwell, to the see of Meath, valued at 5,000*l.* per annum.

Bishop O'Beirne was among the most active and zealous of those who supported the measures and promoted the principles of the Fitzwilliam administration. He was particularly so in furtherance of what seemed to be the primary object of the viceroy, the emancipation, as it was called, of the Catholics; for, though Bishop O'Beirne is a convert to the faith of Protestantism, he is not at all actuated by that outrageous zeal against the faith which he has renounced, which generally marks the proselyte. He wrote, himself, in furtherance of that measure. When Lord Fitzwilliam was removed from office, and the character and measures of his administration came to be canvassed with rather a severe and acrimonious spirit in the Irish House of Peers, Bishop O'Beirne stood forward with honest warmth and distinguished ability in defence of his absent, and, as he conceived, injured, patron. His speech in the House of Lords, on that occasion, was reckoned among the best which have been delivered in that assembly.

Whatever difference of opinion may exist with respect to his political life, his exemplary conduct in discharging the sacred functions of his present dignified office has united every sentiment in his favour.

favour. He delivered a charge to the clergy of his diocess of Ossory, which is, perhaps, unexampled in point of pastoral simplicity and apostolic doctrine. He candidly admitted the obscurity of his birth, and made a solemn declaration, that, in the ecclesiastical promotions, which were at his disposal, he should be influenced by the merits of the candidates only. He instituted monthly lectures, on topics of religious controversy and subjects selected from the History of the Church, while chapters from the New Testament were occasionally translated, and the most approved commentators and expositors were carefully consulted. It was not uncommon, during these lectures, to see them attended by clergymen, from a distance of twenty or thirty miles, who probably had not, for twenty or thirty years, looked into the original text. But while he exacted a punctual attention to duties, peculiarly necessary in a country where the sophistry of the church of Rome was either thought unworthy of the honour of a contest, or was allowed to triumph, without opposition, over the blind credulity of her disciples, and the frequent ignorance of her opponents, he constantly distinguished himself by his attention to the interests of the clergy under his jurisdiction. His house and table were always open to them, particularly to those of the inferior order; and he has never been reproached with neglecting any opportunity to reward the claims of merit, however destitute of recommendation.

As a preacher, Dr. O'Beirne ranks in the first class. His sermons seldom relate to the thorny points of controversial theology, which are more calculated to confound than to enlighten. He is generally satisfied with expatiating on the grand and essential doctrines of Christianity, and his diction is perspicuous, animated, and nervous. He is occasionally sublime, frequently pathetic, and always intelligible to his auditors. Though gifted with considerable powers of imagination, he studiously checks them, when they seem to interfere in the pure fervency of devotion. He appears to have made it his great object,

> "To discipline his fancy, to command
> The heart; and, by familiar accents, move
> The Christian soul." ———

The conduct of his lordship, in private life, has been ever distinguished for that liberality of heart and urbanity of manners which evince a just knowledge of the duties of society. Several of his sermons have been published.

His person is of the middle size, slight, and indicating an age of about sixty years. His face is thin, and expressive of the qualities which form his character. But, it is remarkable, that, notwithstanding the great variety of life which he has seen, the greater part of which has occurred out of Ireland, and in the most exalted situations among men not Irish, his countenance is yet strongly characterized by those peculiar traits which, to a good physiognomist, are supposed to mark the Irish Catholic.

THE

THE REV. WILLIAM FARISH

WAS son to a clergyman of Carlisle; at the grammar-school of which place he was educated, previously to his removal to the university. He did not display, in this early part of life, any of that ability which afterwards marked his progress in mathematical science. Though naturally endowed with a clear discriminating mind and capacious memory, yet, whether from want of any peculiar bent of genius, or the circumstance of his studies being more particularly adapted to those of Cambridge, he was never remarkable for any great proficiency in classical knowledge.

From this, it would not be proper to infer, that he did not possess a mind susceptible of those fine impressions, which the charms of composition are calculated to produce. Taste, for any particular branch of study, is partly natural and partly acquired. The nice discrimination of beauty, on which it is founded, is soon injured by neglect; and what we cease to cultivate loses, in time, the power to please. This accounts for that indifference with which Mr. Farish passed through the flowery regions of classical literature. His mind was chiefly conversant with distinct and accurate ideas, not exercised on sentiments and feelings, but on the number, weight, extent, and capacity, of things. This science, in proportion as he comprehended

prehended it, became the object of his peculiar taste; and appeared to exceed all others, as much in importance, as it did in clear and demonstrative evidence: the indistinct beauty, therefore, and undefined grace, of the Muses, were ever after thrown aside, or but partially attended to by him.

With this strong bias to mathematics, Mr. Farish, at the age of sixteen, entered sizer at Magdalen College, Cambridge; and, during his under-graduateship, was an example of subordination, sobriety, and close application to his studies, to all his fellow-collegians.

No person perhaps is always consistent with himself; sometimes the timid are bold, and the bold timid. When Mr. Farish took his bachelor's degree, owing to his modest unassuming manner, he was in danger of being placed in a situation below his merit. Perceiving this, he challenged the whole senate-house to a trial of mathematical skill; and, by this spirited but unusual expedient, he attained the first honour of his year, — that of being *senior wrangler*.

When an under-graduate, to preserve himself free from every thing which might seduce his mind from study, it was Mr. Farish's uniform practice never to associate familiarly with the gay, the idle, or dissolute. His companions were men of studious habits like his own; and who, like himself, have since arrived at respectability and preferment. This is the best proof that can be given of the soundness of his early judgement.

In

In the success and advancement of a whole society of young men, as in the instance before us, is seen the importance of good and constitutional principles; their effects are not arbitrary, but uniform; not casual, but certain. Among his college-friends were numbered, Dr. Jowett, the present professor of laws, remarkable, as well for his deep researches in Roman and English jurisprudence, as for the purity of his Latin diction; also the Rev. Mr. Miles Atkinson, of Leeds, respectable, as the founder of an institution for gratuitously educating young men of promising abilities at both our universities; and the Rev. Mr. Venn, the present learned and worthy rector of Clapham.

These, with a few others, formed a kind of defensive league against surrounding dissipation; and for that reason were branded with the name of Methodists. Their future lives, however, have borne testimony to the sincerity of their intentions, and stamped their characters with the seal of virtuous and persistive constancy.

A short time after taking his degree, Mr. Farish was chosen fellow and tutor of his college. For the classical part of education he chose an assistant. The lectures in mathematics he conducted in a manner which has done credit to himself, and considerably raised the reputation of the college; since its numbers have, of late years, considerably increased.

Few persons are more conscientious in the discharge of their duty than Mr. Farish. This, those who

who are under his care know to their cost, as it opposes a considerable barrier to their favourite propensities. They are apt to think him arbitrary, therefore, where he has only exercised a necessary and temperate authority; but such an opinion must be taken with considerable limitation, since the party aggrieved can seldom make an impartial judgement.

This high sense of duty, by which the conduct of Mr. Farish is regulated, has been a misfortune to many. When proctor, the discipline of the university was kept unusually strict. Once, in his accustomed nightly rounds with his attendants, he observed three gownsmen enter one of those houses of illicit accomodation, whose doors, like those of Dis,

Noctes atque dies patent.

An authoritative rap soon announced the arrival of the proctor. To escape was impossible; for, the besieger had placed his men at every avenue leading to the building. An out-house seemed to offer the best security to the prisoners, and to this they fled for security. In the mean time the proctor entered: he examined and threatened, but all in vain;—nobody had been there. Unwilling, however, to give up the testimony of his senses, in conformity to the wishes of those, whom he deemed parties concerned in the business, he continued his search, till at last he arrived at the out-house. A tub in one corner, a recent inundation of water, [illegible] The proctor no sooner began

an to restore it to its natural position, than the
:essor to its former contents appeared under-
h, with all his dripping " honours thick about
." But this, to speak mathematically, ex-
ned only one part of the problem; two other
ntities were still wanting; and the present in-
igator was the fittest person in the world to find
n out. These were at length discovered roost-
quietly, as two fowls at midnight, on a beam
his head. This, in the opinion of Mr. Fa-
, was no small misdemeanor; and, as he was
on whom the pleas of any juvenile indiscre-
and fellow-feeling of his own could not ope-
, the offenders had nothing to expect from
, in the way of mitigated punishment. They
e convened before the vice-chancellor, and a
was appointed, when they must either ac-
wledge their offence in full senate, and ask
iveness, or be expelled the university. This is
tioned, not to blame, but to do honour to,
Farish, as a strict disciplinarian in a place,
re both those in *statu dominanti et pupillari*
not remarkable for unexceptionable conduct.
Ir. Farish never committed himself before the
lic as an author; but has chosen his path ra-
along the " sequestered vale" of science.
persons, however, are better known, or more
ected for their talents. In an age when im-
ement is extremely difficult, even in the slight-
hing, Mr. Farish has struck out a new road to
wledge, equally bold and interesting. For

many

many years, during the long vacation at Cambridge, it has been his custom to travel into every part of the kingdom, where any thing curious was to be found; to visit the work-shops of artificers; to descend into mines; to observe the improvements of the arts; and to take models of every thing valuable in machinery. His collection of this kind, thus made with astonishing labour and expense, is the epitome of every thing which supports the commercial consequence, and ministers to the convenience and luxury, of this country. Cotton-mills, looms, polishing machines, steam-engines, sawing-mills, and contrivances of every kind, to facilitate labour, here in miniature, are capable of performing their several movements with all the exactitude of their originals. Mr. Farish gives public lectures, annually, on these, in Cambridge, to the students of the several colleges, who not only find them very instructive, but amusing also: they are in general, therefore, very well attended. In these lectures, the operations of the machines are not only described, but actually brought into effect. Raw materials, of every kind, are brought before his pupils, and undergo, with surprising speed and ingenuity, every ordeal of workmanship, till they arrive to their ultimate perfection. It is not unusual to see, in the course of one lecture, gunpowder, hats, vases, and various other things, start into existence from their constituent elements; so that, while an ordinary person, in the course of his life, becomes acquainted with

one

one trade, Mr. Parish, in the course of a few years, has made himself master of almost every trade and manufacture in the kingdom. For versality, therefore, of knowledge, in this way, he stands unrivalled.

This undertaking was the speculation of an individual; and it is to be wished, his endeavours may be crowned with that success, which they so richly deserve. This can never be done by the profits of the lectures, let them be ever so well attended. As they are highly pleasing, and instruct our future magistrates and legislators in all the detail of manufactural economy, without the expense and fatigue of travelling; and as this knowledge may operate as well to the preservation, as future improvement, of the arts, would it not be a becoming public retribution to the ingenious institutor, for the university to purchase his collection at a liberal price, and create a mechanical professorship, with a good salary, the first chair of which Mr. Farish himself should fill? — Arts and useful inventions have arisen and disappeared; but, while a public conservatory of these things exists, the danger of such an accident is prevented, and the *status quo* of improvement effectually preserved.

The plan of these lectures may not have been originally Mr. Farish's, but the execution certainly is. Bishop Watson, at the end of his chemical works, first started the idea.

The only improvement that Mr. Farish seems to have made in mechanics is a certain curve in the

form

form of cogs, which enables a system of wheels to work with the least possible friction. A mill has been constructed in the north of England on this plan, and found to answer as well in practice as it promised in theory.

In the year 1792, Mr. Farish stood candidate for the professorship of natural and experimental philosophy; but it was gained by Mr. Wollesten. In 1794, he was made professor of chemistry. He is, beside, president of Magdalen-College, and rector of Clifton, in Northamptonshire. Though his avocations are very numerous, yet he does not think himself thereby exempted from the particular duties of his clerical profession; he therefore holds a curacy, within a few miles of Cambridge, which he regularly supplies every Sunday.

The most intricate parts of mathematics are become so familiar to Mr. Farish, that he reads them for his amusement. He has been known, even by a slight inspection, to detect errors in a problem of considerable perplexity and length, prepared for the senate-house by the united care of the other examiners.

The late Dr. Waring was so sensible of his profound knowledge, that he paid but an ill compliment to the other members of the university, by saying, "that nobody understood his writings but Mr. Farish."

His modesty, however, supersedes his merit.—At a learned discussion which took place among some of the heads of Cambridge, they all spoke except

except Mr. Farish. One of the company, much celebrated for his wit and learning, at length said, "We have been talking for this hour in vain; and Farish, who knows more about the matter than all of us put together, has not uttered a word." In promiscuous company, taciturnity is certainly a striking feature in Mr. Farish's character. Every thing he says seems to be the result of deep thought, and not the spontaneous flow of social and unsuspecting confidence. Among his intimates, however, he relaxes, it is said, into the facetious and agreeable companion. Mechanism, topography, trade, and manufactures, are his favourite topics of conversation. Having spent the chief part of his life in a college, naturalized to authority on one hand, and submission on the other, his manners, though mild, still retain a peculiarity, which distinguish them from easy and polite equality. Without any reciprocity of his own, he is acquainted with the methods of diving into the opinions of others; and, on all occasions, has approved himself a watchful guardian of the interests of our present establishments. S. K.

SIR FRANCIS BOURGEOIS, R. A.

THIS ingenious artist is descended from a family of great respectability at Berne, in Switzer-

land, where many of his ancestors filled offices of considerable trust in the state.

He was born in London in the year 1756, and was, at an early age, destined by his father to the profession of arms, in consequence of the friendship entertained for the family by the late Lord Heathfield, who had promised to procure a commission in the army for the son.

The young mind of our artist was now occupied with ideas of martial glory, and he constantly attended military evolutions and reviews. Every inducement to alter the natural bias of his talents proved ineffectual; for, having been instructed, while a child, in some of the rudiments of painting by a Mr. Cervant, a foreigner of inconsiderable merit as a painter of horses, he paid more attention to the imitative art, and exerted himself more assiduously to represent with his pencil the manœuvres he beheld, than to acquire a knowledge of the tactical principles on which they were conducted. About this time he attended almost daily the celebrated riding-academy of Mr. Angelo, in Soho-Square, and took peculiar delight in drawing horses in their various attitudes.

Some of his juvenile essays were seen and praised by Sir Joshua Reynolds and Mr. Gainsborough; and, encouraged by their approbation, he relinquished all thoughts of the military profession, and entirely devoted himself to the cultivation of an art to which the impulse of genius irresistibly directed his powers. Loutherbourg, who admired his early promis

promise of future excellence, readily consented to take him under his tuition. But he did not remain with that able master a longer time than was necessary to acquire a correct knowledge of the true principles of painting, and then determined to indulge his pursuits in the great school of nature, and to study the works of the most eminent masters. From the respectability of his connections, he experienced no difficulty in gaining admission to the best collections in this country; and in the late Marshal Conway, whose taste as a *connoisseur*, and whose amiable qualities as a member of private society, will be long remembered, he found a sincere friend and a liberal patron.

Before he attained the age of twenty, he had acquired no mean reputation by his landscapes and sea-pieces, and some of them are now allowed places in cabinets, distinguished for elegance of selection. In 1776, Sir Francis travelled through the Low Countries, France, and Italy, and studied with indefatigable attention the various beauties that grace the productions of different masters and different ages. The facility with which he spoke several modern languages, particularly the French and Italian, was of peculiar service to him in his tour, and procured him an easy introduction to the most precious collections of the fine arts on the continent.

On his return, he continued to prosecute his studies with increased ardour and reputation, and his exhibitions in the Royal Academy consi-

derably enlarged the circle of his friends and admirers.

About this time, the Prince Primate, brother to the amiable and unfortunate Stanislaus Augustus, king of Poland, came to reside for a few months in this country, and was so captivated with the works of our artist, that he frequently passed whole mornings in his painting-room. His Highness was also very much gratified with the engaging manners and pleasing conversation of Sir Francis, and constantly honoured him with invitations to his select parties. The Prince made him the most liberal offers to induce him to go to Poland, but they were as gratefully acknowledged as they were politely declined.

He was, in 1791, appointed painter to the King of Poland, who also conferred on him the honours of knighthood of the Order of MERIT; and, having been on that occasion introduced at our court to their Majesties, the King was pleased to confirm the title.

In 1792, he was elected a member of the Royal Academy, without any solicitation on his part; and, in 1794, was appointed landscape-painter to his Majesty.

The works of Sir Francis are numerous, and many of them not only grace several of the principal collections in this country, but have found their way into some distinguished cabinets on the continent. His facility in the execution of any subject, which he conceives, has been long a matter of

of surprise, and the happy variety of tints and glow of colouring with which his chief productions are embellished evidently shew that his labour is "the labour of love, not the task of the hireling." The composition of his pictures is generally in strict conformity to nature, and he is surpassed by few in his just application of the principles of perspective, and in the judicious grouping of his figures.

It is, however, to be lamented, that, in some of his pieces, a hastiness of finishing is observable; and his admirers have often regretted, that, capable as he is of making a distinguished figure in the superior departments of historical painting, he has not allowed his powers to take that extensive range for which they seem sufficiently qualified.

The manners of Sir Francis are highly attractive. His conversation affords pleasure and instruction, and the readiness with which he has, on all occasions, exerted his interest in favour of rising genius or distressed merit, is an honourable testimony of the liberality of his mind. N.

DUKE OF RICHMOND.

THE Duke of Richmond was born on the 22d of February, 1735; he succeeded his father in titles and estate the 8th of August, 1750, and took his seat in the House of Lords in 1756. His Grace

attached himself to the Whig interest, which at that period was headed by the first Duke of Newcastle, but took no active part in the political contests of the latter part of the reign of George the Second.

At the commencement of the present reign, he was colonel of the 72d regiment of foot, and was esteemed a rising military character, having received the particular thanks of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick for his conduct and intrepidity at the battle of Minden. He appears, however, to have taken an early disgust to the political system that commenced with the administration of Lord Bute. In 1763, he may be said to have entered upon his political career, when he was distinguished as a bold and dignified speaker in the House of Peers against the measures of Lord Bute and his successor Mr. George Grenville. In 1765, the Tory system experienced a complete overthrow, and the satellites of Lord Bute gave way to the Whigs, headed by their leader, Lord Rockingham, under whose auspices the Stamp-Act was repealed, the tranquillity and confidence of America restored, and the principles of government (which had been introduced at the Revolution, and had raised the country to such a height of splendor and greatness in the succeeding reigns) apparently re-established. In this administration, the Duke of Richmond held the office of secretary of state, the duties of which he discharged with ability and general approbation. In little more than a year, this

this administration gave way to a motley and discordant group of Whigs and Tories, the latter of whom were accused of acting under the *secret influence* of the favourite Lord Bute, who had not courage to avow himself any longer the adviser of measures, to the execution of which a considerable degree of responsibility was necessarily annexed. The Duke of Grafton, though for a short time the ostensible leader of the new administration, soon surrendered his situation to Lord North, who persevered in the system of favouritism till he involved the country in a war with France, Spain, and Holland; lost America, and doubled the debt of the nation. During the whole of this momentous interval, from 1767 to 1782, the Duke of Richmond was one of the most active opponents of all those measures which tended to involve his country in ruin. He was closely united with the Rockingham party, but he went beyond most of the Whigs in his zeal for the principles of civil and political liberty. In 1781, he introduced into parliament a project for an annual and equal representation of the people, which has been admired and applauded by many of the wisest and most virtuous characters of the country.

His plan was to make the election of the representatives of the people annual, and the right of voting universal.

The kingdom of Great Britain was to be divided into five hundred districts; each district to contain an equal population, and to choose one member.

The election to begin and end in one day.

The people to be registered in each district three months before the election, with their profession, trade, or employment, and the street or place of their abode.

To give their votes in the parish-church of their residence before the church-wardens, who were to close the poll at the setting of the sun on the day the election was to commence, and deliver the same, personally, to the sheriff of the district, who was to sum up the whole on that day se'nnight, at the most central town of the district, and make his return of the person who had a majority of the suffrages of the people.

Every male person in the country, who had attained the age of twenty-one years, (criminals and insane persons only excepted,) to have a vote in the election of the representatives of the people.

At this time his Grace was at the head of the Constitutional Society, a member of the committees of the county of Sussex and city of Westminster, appointed to effect a parliamentary reform, and one of the nine delegates elected by the latter body to meet an equal number of delegates from each of the other committees constituted for the same purpose, to form a convention of the whole, in order to pursue the most effectual means for carrying this popular measure into effect.

At the assembly of the delegates, the Duke of Richmond was unanimously chosen president. They denominated themselves "the Convention of

of Delegates from the respective Committees constituted for obtaining a Reform in the State of the Representation of the People in Parliament," and displayed the most ardent and commendable zeal in the prosecution of an object so truly important.

Upon the fall of Lord North from power, and the overthrow of the Tory system in April, 1782, the Marquis of Rockingham and the Whigs returned into office, and the Duke of Richmond was appointed master-general of the Ordnance, and received the honour of the Garter. This administration was divided and annihilated in little more than three months after its commencement, in consequence of the unfortunate death of its leader. The Marquis of Lansdown was appointed first lord of the Treasury, and all the cabinet-ministers resigned, except the Duke of Richmond, Duke of Grafton, and General Conway. The Whigs had pledged themselves to the people to effect two grand measures, — a parliamentary reform and the conclusion of peace with America. In vain did the new administration profess the same principle and promise to pursue the same measures. The greatest part of the Rockingham party, comprising Mr. Fox, Mr. Burke, Mr. Sheridan, the Duke of Portland, Lord Fitzwilliam, the Cavendish family, Mr. Windham, Lord Keppel, and all the leaders, formed a coalition with Lord North and the discarded administration, and, composing a considerable majority in the two Houses of Parliament, at the opening of

of the ensuing session, compelled the Marquis of Lansdown to resign. Upon this memorable occasion, the Duke of Richmond took the lead in a new Opposition with the Marquis of Lansdown, Mr. Pitt, the Earl of Liverpool, (then Mr. Charles Jenkinson,) and Mr. Dundas; a still more heterogeneous and discordant combination than the party they opposed. In less than ten months, however, this new party, with the assistance of the court-influence, and from the unpopularity of the coalition, united in themselves all the efficient powers of government, which they have held ever since, while the Duke of Richmond resumed his place at the head of the Ordnance. The great desideratum of a reform in parliament was still considered as so far from being abandoned, that Mr. Pitt, the new minister, became its champion, and brought it forward three successive years in the House of Commons. Even Mr. Dundas was converted to its merits, and his name is to be found among the minority who divided in its favour. Thus supported by eloquence and power in parliament, and by the united voice of the country out of doors, it will astonish those who are not complete masters of the subject, how a measure of such universal popularity, so evidently calculated to harmonize the people, and make them adore their constitution and government, should have so repeatedly failed of success.

The Duke of Richmond, upon introducing his Reform-Bill in the House of Lords, declared, that

" his

" his reasons in favour of a parliamentary reform were formed on the experience of twenty-six years, which, whether *in or out of government*, had equally convinced him, that the restoration of a genuine House of Commons, by a renovation of the rights of the people, was the only remedy against that system of corruption which had brought the nation to disgrace and poverty, and threatened it with the loss of liberty." He continued to exert himself as the most strenuous supporter of the measure, till the year 1784, when the meetings of the county and town committees were discontinued, the correspondence between them ceased, and the assembly or convention of delegates, of which the Duke was president, became insensibly annihilated.

His Grace's letters, to the volunteers of Ireland, are in the hands of most people. His style of writing and speaking is clear, manly, and full of intelligence. As a politician and a statesman, few men are so well informed. As a military character, his system of fortification has been much ridiculed; but the severest reproach that has been aimed at his public character has been that of apostasy from his public and avowed principles. This reproach, however, candor obliges us to remark, has never been satisfactorily substantiated.

In 1795, his Grace resigned the office of master-general of the Ordnance, and received the command of the royal regiment of Horse-Guards, blue; and has since obtained the bishopric of Chichester for

for his friend and domestic chaplain Dr. Buckner. His Grace is lord-lieutenant and custos rotulorum of the county of Sussex, a field-marshal, high steward of Chichester, colonel of the Sussex militia, and fellow of the Royal Society.

The Duke of Richmond is much attached to literary pursuits, and was distinguished, particularly during his intimacy with the late Field-Marshal Conway, for his patronage of the fine arts. With his secession from political discussion, a secession from every kind of activity as a public character seems to have taken place, and he now lives a retired life principally at Goodwood. His character in private life is truly respectable. As a sincere friend, an affectionate brother, and a fond relative, zealous to promote the interest of every branch of his family, his Grace has seldom been surpassed.

C.

MRS. ABINGTON.

IF to have enriched "the public stock of harmless pleasure," and to have soothed the cares of life by the fleeting effusions of mimic gaiety, merit honourable notice, the subject of the present biographical sketch is not without just claims to grateful mention and general praise.

Mrs. Abington, whose maiden-name was Barton, made her *début* in the Haymarket-Theatre under the management of the celebrated Theophilus

lus Cibber, who, in 1752, obtained a license from the lord-chamberlain to perform plays at that house. She had not attained her seventeenth year, when, encouraged by the high opinion entertained of her talents by the manager and several judicious critics, who had attended her rehearsals in private, she was induced to offer herself as a candidate for public favour in the character of Miranda in the comedy of the Busy Body. Her success was adequate to the most sanguine expectations of her friends, and she was afterwards engaged in the Bath company, then under the direction of that excellent comedian, Mr. King, now of Drury-Lane Theatre, who was the acting-manager. At the end of the following summer, she was seen on the Richmond stage, in one her principal characters, by Mr. Lacy, one of the patentees of Old Drury, who immediately engaged her for the winter-season. Her first part was Lady Pliant, and she was received with unbounded applause. Here she married Mr. Abington; and, seeing but a faint prospect of rising to eminence in her profession, while the chief characters, to which she aspired, were in the possession of Mrs. Clive, Mrs. Cibber, and more particularly of Mrs. Pritchard, she agreed to very advantageous proposals made to her by Messieurs Barry and Woodward, who had opened a theatre in Crow-Street, Dublin, in opposition to that in Smock-Alley under the management of Mr. Sheridan. She accordingly repaired to Dublin a short time before the

the close of the season of 1759, and soon became a distinguished favourite with the Irish audience.

The celebrity she acquired in Ireland soon reached London, and the public became desirous to behold the improvements of an actress, whose first essays had given so much pleasure. She was accordingly engaged by Mr. Garrick, at a considerable salary, on his return from his continental excursion; and, from her appearance at that time in the Widow Belmour, to the year 1782, she performed Lady Fanciful, in the Provoked Wife; Araminta, in the School for Lovers; Belinda, in All in the Wrong; Biddy Tipkin, in the Tender Husband; the second Constantia; Millamant; Miss Prue; Beatrice; Estifania; Clarinda; with a variety of other leading parts; and her claims to distinction, as the principal favourite of Thalia, were universally acknowledged. She was the original representative of Lady Alton, in the English Merchant; Charlotte, in the Hypocrite; Miss Rusport, in the West Indian; Lady Bab Lardoon; Roxalana; Lady Teazle; and Miss Hoyden, in the Trip to Scarborough, altered by Mr. Sheridan from Vanbrugh's comedy of the Relapse.

Some differences arising at this time between Mrs. Abington and the Drury-Lane proprietors, which it was found impossible to adjust to the satisfaction of both parties, she was engaged, by Mr. Harris, on very liberal terms. From the season of 1782-83, she continued, for several years, under

under the management of that gentleman, to delight the *amateurs* of the drama with the versatility of her powers; and, after a long secession from the London boards, during which she performed on the Dublin stage, she was induced, by the advice of her friends and the solicitation of the manager, to resume her situation in Covent-Garden Theatre in the season of 1797–98.

Though she certainly had lost much of the charms of face and the graces of person, that so peculiarly contribute to the embellishment of the poet's text, and without which the sense of the author and the expression of the actor are at variance, and tend to remind an audience, that the business of the scene is a fiction, she retained her former spirited action, her natural elegance of delivery, and was received, on her return, with the most enthusiastic marks of public favour.

Her last performance in public was for the benefit of Mr. Pope, this year, in her favourite part of Lady Racket, in Three Weeks after Marriage; and she performed the character of Lady Fanciful, on the 31st of last May, at Brandenburgh-House, to a select auditory, when the Margravine and Miss Berkeley appeared in Lady Brute and Belinda.

With respect to the former merits of Mrs. Abington, there exists but one opinion. Her professional attractions were truly captivating, and she had the happy art of displaying, in various lines, comic rusticity and exquisite humour, the graceful ease

ease of the accomplished woman of fashion, and the capricious airs of the fantastical coquette. Her late performances have produced some difference of sentiment. When she appeared, the captiousness of criticism was on the watch to discover defects, not to applaud beauties; and it was objected to Mrs. Abington, without making any candid allowance for a retirement of many years, and the unavoidable ravages of time, that she no longer possessed all those theatrical requisites for which she had once been so eminently distinguished. Her person and countenance are certainly much altered, but she still retains attractions of the first order,—unaffected ease, spirited elegance, and delicate discrimination. The natural manner in which she delivers her dialogue cannot be too highly praised. There is no study, no labour, no painful exertion to command attention, which reflection must ever condemn; and, like the celebrated French actor, *Baron*, whose talents triumphed over age and infirmity, she affords a striking proof, to use the language of one of her encomiasts of no mean reputation in the dramatic world, that

Nature, charming Nature, is eternal!

The conduct of Mrs. Abington, in private life is uncommonly engaging. Her conversation abounds in lively and instructive anecdote, and she has the honour of ranking among the number of her friends some of the most distinguished and respectable persons in both kingdoms. J. N.

WILLIAM

MR. SAURIN,

THE IRISH ADVOCATE.

THIS gentleman claims a place among public characters on two grounds; — first, as being the first man in point of reputation and practice at the Irish bar; and, next, as being the first, the most active, and, perhaps, the most efficient, opponent of a legislative union.

To the universality of the maxim that envy is the constant concomitant of merit, Mr. Saurin affords one exception; for, whether we consider him as a man in private life, or as a professional man in public, he stands in the first rank; and yet there is, perhaps, no man who has suffered less from the envy of competitors, or against whom Malice has less industriously directed her shafts. Combined with great talents and profound legal learning, there is in Mr. Saurin a modesty of demeanour, an unassuming gentleness, and general propriety of conduct, which either disarms malevolence or protects him against its assaults.

Mr. Saurin is the descendant of a French family, which appear to have held a reputable rank in life. His elder brother was for many years a captain of dragoons, and at present, besides his half-pay, enjoys the lucrative office of land-waiter of the port of Dublin; a place of which the

 average-

average-profits are reckoned at 800*l.* per annum. Of Mr. Saurin's younger days, nothing remarkable is related: he passed through the ordinary stages of school and college education without exciting much observation, and came to the bar with no other *éclat* than what was produced by the steady operation of sound sense and mild manners. Soon after, Mr. Saurin paid his addresses to a young lady of the name of Ormsby, who seemed to listen with complacency, if not pleasure, to the soft flowing tones* of the young barrister. For a very considerable period he contrived to prosecute his suit: his pleadings were drawn out to a great length. The lady generally demurred without shewing any special cause; and, though it was highly probable that issue would at length be joined between the parties, yet some temporary bar generally stood in the way of a final decision. While the affair was thus protracted by the art or the irresolution of the lady, an event happened which wholly frustrated Mr. Saurin's expectations. A very rich relation of Miss Ormsby's died, and a large estate, of which she had hitherto no near expectancy, became vested in her. A young lawyer, but just beginning to make his way in the world, appeared now to be quite an unfit match for Miss Ormsby. He was, therefore, informed that his visits as a suitor of that lady were no

* One of Mr. Saurin's distinguishing traits is the placid and smooth uniformity of his tones and diction.

longer

longer acceptable, and the lady herself was immediately sent to Limeric, the place near which her newly-acquired property lay. Here she became acquainted with Mr. Perry, then the nephew and heir of Lord Glentworth, bishop of Limeric, and who has since succeeded to the title and estate of his lordship. Mr. Perry addressed her with more success than the disappointed Saurin; they were speedily married; and the discarded lover left to lament or to declaim against the fickleness of woman.

Mr. Saurin happily was too phlegmatic to sicken at this disappointment, or renounce the sex because he had been rejected or cajoled by one of them. He sought a remedy for disappointed love, by addressing another lady, in whom he hoped for more candor and more kindness. Lady Cox was the person to whom he now offered himself and his fortunes, such as they were. His offer was accepted. The marriage took place; and, though neither of the parties possessed much wealth, (indeed the joint fortunes of both scarcely afforded a competency,) yet the prudence, economy, and increasing practice, of Mr. Saurin, soon made up the deficiency, and abundantly furnished means of domestic comfort and honourable independence. Within a very few years after his marriage, the uncommon industry and great talents of Mr. Saurin became conspicuous, and procured for him the most extensive and lucrative business which the Irish Chancery afforded.

Among the Irish barristers, it has been truly observed, there exists, perhaps, much too strong a passion for obtaining a seat in parliament, and endeavouring to rise rather by their political than by their professional labours. Mr. Saurin has never been affected with this kind of spurious ambition. Since he became eminent as a lawyer, he has often been solicited to accept a seat in parliament, and support with his powers a government, which, for many years back, appears to have wanted all the talent, as well as all the influence, they could collect, to keep them afloat. He resisted those solicitations, and has preferred the tranquil enjoyments of domestic life, uninterrupted by the contention of political struggles, to the emoluments and rank of high office, and to the still more plausible and imposing rewards of popularity. Though the Irish government found themselves unable to enlist Mr. Saurin among their active and parliamentary partizans, they nevertheless continued to pay him the respect which they conceived to be due to his talents and his virtues. In the administration of Lord Camden, he was honoured with a patent of precedence, which gives him a right of pre-audience in the courts immediately after his Majesty's prime-sergeant. This was indeed but a just token of respect for the alacrity and zeal with which he promoted the plan for forming a military corps from among the members of the Irish bar, shortly previous to the first attempt of the French on the coast of Ireland, by which

which an example was set to the rest of the loyal people of the country, which has been followed with so much promptness, and has produced the salvation of the state. Of that corps Mr. Saurin was elected, and still continues, first captain; and on its interests and discipline he bestows the most unremitted attention.

It was not, however, till the project of an union between the two countries was taken up by the administration, that they seriously set about procuring the sanction and assistance of Mr. Saurin. To obtain his support, in that measure particularly, they shewed the most solicitous anxiety; probably because they knew or believed that the opinion of that gentleman would have great weight in regulating the opinion of the Irish bar, who were known to think so highly of his integrity and his talents. If it were with that view they wished to secure his support, they appear to have acted prudently; for, to the almost-unanimous opposition of the bar, an unanimity greatly owing to the example, the influence, and the reasoning, of Mr. Saurin, the first defeat of that measure may be fairly attributed.

On that important occasion, it is said, with great confidence, that administration offered to Mr. Saurin not only the prime-sergeantcy, when it should become vacant, but the place of attorney-general on the next promotion. This offer, Mr. Saurin is said to have declined; and it is also stated, that he was then offered the reversion of the Chancery.

Instead, however, of accepting these munificent offers, for which he was to advise and promote the surrender of the constitution and independence of his country, Mr. Saurin suggested to some of his brethren at the bar the necessity of calling a meeting of the barristers to consider the question of Union, which, as it had now been officially announced, was to be proposed to the Irish parliament in the ensuing session. A requisition was accordingly signed by a number of the most eminent characters in the profession, and among them Mr. Saurin, desiring a full meeting of the bar, on a certain day, to declare their sense respecting the agitation of that momentous subject. The meeting was accordingly held and most numerously attended. Mr. Saurin opened the business of the meeting in a speech, not long, but marked by that ingenious address which peculiarly distinguishes him. In this speech, he shortly and forcibly stated or insinuated almost every argument which has been urged against an union, and concluded, by a resolution, declaring it unwise and unnecessary, at that time, to agitate the question. A long discussion followed, which terminated in a division, on which there appeared a vast majority in support of Mr. Saurin's resolution. The exertions of the bar, against the measure, led as they were by Mr. Saurin, did not terminate in that effort. A swarm of energetic well-written pamphlets, from the leading members of the profession, for some months afterwards continued to enlighten and animate the public

public mind on that subject, and a periodical paper, called the ANTI-UNION, confined exclusively to that topic, and written with much zeal, much information, and great talent, contributed in no small degree to confirm the public, and, perhaps, the Commons themselves, in their reprobation of a legislative union. This paper was conducted and supported by four or five barristers, the intimate friends of Mr. Saurin, and guided in their management of it chiefly by him, though, from the pressure of professional business, he was himself unable to fill many of its pages.

His conduct, on this great occasion, made Mr. Saurin more than ever a favourite with the public, and, of his own profession, made him almost the idol. A meeting of the bar was again summoned, for the purpose of marking to the public the estimation in which his brethren held his character and his services to them and to the country. The meeting came to resolutions which must have been in the highest degree flattering to him, and which were certainly founded in justice. At present, Mr. Saurin continues to sustain the high character which he thus acquired by private and public virtue. He continues still to confine himself to his professional avocations, beyond which he stepped only on the single and most important occasion, when the liberty and independence of his country appeared to him to be assailed. If any change have taken place in the public mind respecting that momentous subject, Mr. Saurin yet

remains unchanged; and it is some argument against a legislative union, that a man, acknowledged one of the most loyal, the most prudent, the most sagacious, and one the most learned in the constitution, has ever been, and remains, the decided and zealous opponent of that measure.

Mr. Saurin is low in stature; his countenance is characteristic of French origin; and, if the physiognomist be not rather influenced by what he knows *a priori* of the man, than by what he infers only from the visage of his subject, it bespeaks strongly a cool and sound judgement, a sagacious understanding, and a good heart. He is said to make considerably more in his profession than any other man at the Irish bar. There appears, however, no obvious or shining excellence in his manner of discharging his forensic duties. His diction is plain, but correct; his manner cool, disquisitional, and quite unimpassioned. His great merit as a bar-orator consists in the ingenuity of his statements, his colouring, his selection of facts, and his judicious arrangement of matter. He possesses a very strong memory, sound judgement, great legal knowledge, the result of laborious and early reading, and he is, above all, characterized for a degree of attention to business, to which even a young and a poor man is seldom found to submit.

W.

DOCTOR

DOCTOR SAMUEL ARNOLD.

(COMMUNICATED BY MR. THOMAS BUSBY.)

THIS gentleman, whose professional celebrity was so early acquired, and which has been so long and so deservedly maintained, received his musical education at the Chapel-Royal, St. James's, partly under the late Mr. Gates, and partly under his successor Dr. Nares.

The strong indications he evinced, even in infancy, of a genius formed for the cultivation of the tuneful science, determined his parents to yield to the bias of nature, by placing him in some respectable harmonic seminary. The inviting prospect of future patronage, from the late princesses Amelia and Caroline, was at the same time an additional inducement with them to give the fullest scope in their power to that impulse of genius, which, under skilful masters, could not but be productive of future honour and emolument to its possessor; and, at the express desire of those illustrious personages, he was, at the usual age of admission, placed in the King's Chapel. His ardent perseverance in study daily afforded the most convincing proofs that music was the science for which nature had designed him, and justified the choice his parents had made.

Mr.

Mr. Gates and Dr. Nares were masters of respectable abilities, and consequently knew how to appreciate and encourage dawning talents. The former of these gentlemen was, indeed, so partial to his assiduous and promising pupil, that he constantly distinguished him by marks of his particular favour, and at his death left him a legacy. From industry, combined with real genius, resulted that rapid progress which at once rewards and propels the aspiring student; and young Mr. Arnold, before he had reached manhood, rendered himself, by his taste and science, an ornament to the profession to which the future study of his life was to be devoted.

About the year 1760, Mr. Beard, of vocal celebrity, and at that time one of the managers of Covent-Garden Theatre, became acquainted with Mr. Arnold, and was so sensible of his extraordiry merit, as to be glad to avail himself of his talents by introducing him to the notice of the public as composer to that house. That justly admired and unaffected imitator of nature possessed all that simplicity of taste and chasteness of manner so happily calculated to draw forth the efforts of genuine ability; and, in composing for such a singer, Mr. Arnold necessarily adopted that strength and purity of melody calculated to touch the heart, and to which most of the nerveless and unnatural strains of later days do not seem even to pretend.

True

True genius, like the eagle, feels its power of superior flight, and disdains the track of mediocrity! It is, therefore, no wonder that Mr. Arnold, after his success with the Maid of the Mill and several other compositions, should feel the impulse to exert his talents upon an oratorio. The Cure of Saul, written by the late Rev. Dr. Brown, offered itself to his contemplation; and, in the year 1767, he made choice of that excellent poem for his first effort in the higher style of musical composition. In this attempt he so happily succeeded, that it was universally allowed to be the greatest production in its kind since the time of the immortal Handel. Mr. Arnold, who had never suffered his private interest to come in competition with the public good, generously made a present of this work to the Society instituted for the Benefit of decayed Musicians and their Families; and it proved to that society a most valuable acquisition. The fund had greatly sunk, and the receipts of their annual concerts were still decreasing. The Cure of Saul, however, attracted crowded audiences, and contributed to the restoration of that success and prosperity which had formerly marked the progress of that highly laudable institution. The distinguished honour with which Mr. Arnold had acquitted himself in the arduous task of composing an oratorio encouraged him to proceed; and soon after gave birth to a second production of the same kind, called Abimilech, which was succeeded by the Resurrection and

and the Prodigal Son. The latter three of these oratorios were, during several successive Lents, performed at the Theatre-Royal in the Haymarket, and Covent-Garden Theatre, under his own management and direction. His first enterprise was in the Haymarket, at play-house prices, and succeeded so far as to induce him to quit the Little Theatre. But the second speculation was not equally favourable. The plan on which he proceeded was certainly judicious; and, had he not been opposed by a powerful court-interest at Drury-Lane, must have answered his most sanguine expectations; but, from that opposition, together with his enormous expenses, and other unforeseen causes, it proved an unfortunate adventure. About the time that he wrote the Resurrection, he composed and published in score four sets of Vauxhall songs, the greater part of which are uncommonly sweet in their melodies, and in their accompaniments display much richness of taste, aided by a thorough acquaintance with the characters and powers of the various instruments. Of all his oratorios, the Prodigal Son reflects the greatest portion of honour on his talents and judgement. It is, indeed, for the most part, conceived in a manly and noble style, and exhibits much of that greatness and sublimity of mind indispensable to the production of oratorial composition. It formed a splendid addition to that laurel he had already so fairly earned, and gave him an indisputable station in that rank of composers which only true genius, cultivated

cultivated by profound science, can ever hope to attain. The fame of this sacred drama was so high, that, when, in 1773, it was in contemplation to instal the late Lord North chancellor of the university of Oxford, the stewards, appointed to conduct the musical department of the ceremony, applied to the composer of the Prodigal Son for permission to perform that oratorio on the solemn occasion. Mr. Arnold's ready and polite acquiescence with this request procured him the offer of an honorary degree in the theatre; but, conscious of his own scientific qualifications, he preferred the academical mode; and, conformably to the statutes of the university, received it in the school-room, where he performed, as an exercise, Hughes's poem on the Power of Music. On such occasions, it is usual for the musical professor of the university to examine the exercise of the candidate; but Dr. William Hayes, then the professor of Oxford, returned Mr. Arnold his score unopened, saying, "Sir, it is quite unnecessary to scrutinize the exercise of the author of the Prodigal Son."

In the year 1771, Dr. Arnold married Miss Napier, daughter of Archibald Napier, Doctor in Physic, with which lady he received a handsome fortune. About the same year, he purchased, of Mr. Pinto, Marybone-Gardens, then the much-frequented scene of gaiety and fashion. For the better entertainment of the public, the Doctor furnished the gardens with a scenic stage, and composed and performed some excellent burlettas,

lettas, which were most favourably received. These short, but pleasing, pieces, while they evinced his versatile powers as a composer, assisted to display the vocal abilities of Miss Harper, (now Mrs. Bannister,) Miss Catley, Miss Brown, (afterwards Mrs. Cargil,) Mrs. Barthelemon, Mr. Charles Bannister, Mr. Reinhold, and many other respectable and well-known London performers. Ever anxious to merit that attention and encouragement with which the public distinguished his exertions to gratify the general taste, Dr. Arnold, at a very great expense, engaged, for the use of the gardens, the assistance of that ingenious artist, Signor Torré, whose fire-works excited the admiration of all who witnessed their beauty and magnificence; and whose representation of the Cave of Vulcan was allowed by all connoisseurs in the art to be the most striking and stupendous performance ever exhibited in this country. In 1776, the lease of the gardens expired; and that delightful spot, to which the votaries of taste and innocent pleasure had so long resorted, was, by the proprietors, let to various builders, and soon after converted into an integral part of the metropolis.

When Mr. Beard, after many years of meritorious public service, retired to the enjoyment of a well-earned competency, the late Mr. George Colman became his successor, as one of the managers of Covent-Garden Theatre. The classical and discriminating mind of this gentleman and scholar felt and acknowledged the sterling abilities of Dr. Arnold;

Arnold; and he was desirous to retain so valuable an acquisition to the house. The place of composer to his theatre could not be better occupied than by a master whose merit the town had already so strongly stamped with the sanction of its approbation.

About the year 1776, the English Aristophanes quitted the stage, and Mr. Colman, having sufficient interest to procure the continuance of the patent, purchased the Haymarket-Theatre. Unwilling to lose the tributary service of those talents, by which he had already so greatly profited, he engaged Dr. Arnold to conduct the musical department in his new concern. This situation the Doctor still continues to fill with honour to himself and advantage to the proprietors.

On the death of the late Dr. Nares, which happened early in the year 1783, Dr. Arnold was appointed his successor as organist and composer to his Majesty's Chapel at St. James's, to which honourable office he was sworn in on March the 1st of the same year; and, at the grand performances of the Commemoration of Handel, at Westminster-Abbey, the first of which took place in 1784, the Doctor was appointed one of the sub-directors of that celebrity, and presented with a medal which his Majesty has permitted the sub-directors to wear at all times, as a mark of his approbation of their conduct on that great and magnificent occasion. In the year 1786, Dr. Arnold projected and entered upon the plan of publishing an uniform

form edition of the whole of Handel's works; and proceeded in this arduous undertaking to the hundred and eighteenth number, going through all his productions, except his Italian operas. He also, at the same time, published four volumes of cathedral music, forming a continuation of Dr. Boyce's great and well-known work. Three of the volumes are in score for the voices, and one for the organ.

In November, 1789, it was resolved, by the subscribers to the Academy of Antient Music, to place their performances more fully under the direction of some professional gentleman of eminence. On this occasion, Dr. Arnold, Dr. Cooke, and Dr. Dupuis, were severally nominated candidates, when Dr. Arnold was elected by a great majority, and invested with the entire direction and management of the orchestra, the authority of hiring of instruments, engaging performers, and of doing whatever else related to the concert; the committee pledging itself to indemnify the conductor for all expenses. The management of this respectable institution has, since that time, continued in the Doctor's hands, with the highest credit to himself, and the greatest satisfaction to the academicians and subscribers.

At the death of the late Dr. Cooke, which happened in the year 1793, the real merit and high reputation of Dr. Arnold recommended him to the notice of the ingenious and learned Dr. Horsley, bishop of Rochester and dean of Westminster.

minster. The bishop, casting his eye around for a meritorious object, naturally fixed on Dr. Arnold; and I have it from the Doctor himself, that his appointment was unsolicited, and performed on the part of the worthy prelate "in the handsomest manner possible."

In 1796, the Doctor was applied to, to succeed the late Dr. Philip Hayes as conductor of the annual performances at St. Paul's for the Feast of the Sons of the Clergy; in which situation he has well supported his high professional character.

Dr. Arnold has had five children, of which, two daughters and one son are now living. His eldest daughter was lately married to Mr. Rose, a gentleman engaged in mercantile business. The second is unmarried. Mr. Samuel Arnold inherits all that intellectual pre-eminence which has so long distinguished his father. He is the author of several musical dramas, most of which have been flatteringly received; and he has written an excellent novel, entitled "The Creole." But the circumstance the most worthy of remark is, the rapid and extraordinary progress he has made in the profession he has lately assumed. Scarcely a twelvemonth has elapsed since he commenced portrait-painter; and, in the last exhibition at Somerset-House, the public were presented with a portrait of Dr. Ayrton from his pencil. But at this the reader will be less surprised, when told, that that excellent artist, Mr. Beachey, on examining Mr.

Arnold's first effort in this way, declared that he never before saw such a *first picture.*

It is a truth highly honourable to Dr. Arnold, that the exercise of his professional talents has never been entirely confined to the public amusement and his own private emolument. The prosperity of those numerous charities which distinguish this country, and reflect so much honour on their several founders, has engrossed much of his attention; and many a handsome collection has, in a great measure, been derived from his voluntary and gratuitous assistance. By the kindly aid of that science which some consider as trivial, or as an useless luxury, and only calculated to excite the looser passions, he has succoured the most philanthropic and noble institutions, and contributed to " feed the hungry and clothe the naked."

Every one, who has the pleasure of the Doctor's acquaintance, will acknowledge, that, independently of his professional excellencies, he possesses many qualities which claim the esteem of society. His genius and science have, from time to time, procured him a great number of friends; and his social and amiable disposition has always preserved them. His conversation is open, pleasant, and unaffected; his heart is framed to feel for the distresses of others; and his sincerity in friendship is universally known.

His works are voluminous, as will be seen by the following catalogue:

ORA-

ORATORIOS.

The Cure of Saul.
Abimelech.
The Resurrection.
The Prodigal Son.

ODES.

The Jesuit.
To the Haymakers.
On the Queen's Birth-Day.
Prince of Wales's Birth-Day.
To Music.
To Night
To Humanity.
On Shakspeare.

SERENATAS.

Hercules and Omphale.
Apollo.
Theseus and Peleus.

OPERAS.

The Maid of the Mill.
Rosamond.
April-Day.
The Castle of Andalusia.
Lilliput.
The Son-in-Law.
The Weather-Cock.
Summer Amusement.
The Agreeable Surprise.
The Dead Alive.
Julius Cæsar.
The Silver Tankard.
True Blue.
The Spanish Barber.
The Blind Man.
Tom Jones.
The Prince of Arragon.
Two to One.
Turk and no Turk.
The Siege of Curzola.
Inkle and Yarico.
The Battle of Hexham.
Gretna-Green.
Fire and Water.
Hunt the Slipper.
The Wedding-Night.
The Baron.
The Female Dramatist.
The Garland.
Surrender of Calais.
The Mountaineers.
The Shipwreck.
Auld Robin Gray.
Apollo turned Stroller.
Who pays the Reckoning?
The Portrait.
Peeping Tom.
The Enraged Musician.
Arthur.
New Spain.
Throw Physic to the Dogs.
Children in the Wood.
Cambro-Britons.
Italian Monk.
False and True.
The Hovel.

BURLETTAS.

The Magnet. Don Quixote.
The Cure for Dotage.

Overtures, Concertos, Trios, Canzonets, Single Songs, Catches, Glees, and Lessons for the Harpsichord or Piano-Forte.

IN MANUSCRIPT.

Various Services and Anthems composed for public Charities, and for the immediate Use of his Majesty's Chapels.

ADMIRAL LORD BRIDPORT.

THIS veteran officer was the son of the late vicar of Thorncombe, in Devonshire, and the younger brother of Lord Hood, a memoir of whom appeared in our former volume. He received, we believe, his principal education under the immediate eye of his parent.

Lord Bridport entered early into the naval service; and, having only his own merit and diligence to trust to, in respect to his future prospects, his subsequent eminence forms the highest panegyric on his character.

On the 2d of December, 1746, he was made a lieutenant; and, on the 10th of June, 1756, was promoted to be post-captain of the Prince George, of 90 guns. In 1757, he was appointed to the Antelope, of 50 guns; and, being on a cruise in the month of May, on the coast of France, he fell in with the Aquilon, a French frigate, of 48 guns

and 450 men. After a running fight of two hours, Captain Hood drove her on the rocks in Audierne-Bay, where she was totally lost. The enemy had thirty men killed, and thirteen wounded. The Antelope had three killed, and thirteen wounded.*

In 1758, Captain Hood served in the Mediterranean on board the St. George, of 90 guns, commanded by Rear-Admiral Saunders, part of the fleet under the command of Admiral Osborne. He was present on the 28th of February, when the French admiral Du Quesne, in attempting to reinforce De la Clue, was blocked up in the harbour of Carthagena. Captain Hood returned from the Mediterranean with Rear-Admiral Saunders, and arrived at Spithead on the 5th of July. Soon after his arrival, he was appointed to command the Minerva frigate, of 32 guns. During the greater part of 1759, he served under Commodore Duff, who was employed to block up the French transports in the Morbian. Captain Hood also captured the Ecureuil, a Bayonne privateer, of 14 guns and 122 men; but he did not obtain any fresh addition of laurels till the beginning of the year 1761. On the 23d of January of that year, cruizing near Cape Pinas, which bore S. by E. thirty leagues,

* During this action, a midshipman, of the name of Murray, had both his legs shot away. He was immediately carried down to the surgeon; but, whilst his wounds were dressing, hearing three cheers from the crew, and concluding the enemy's ship had struck, the ebbing spirit of his life instantly rallied; and, waving his hand in triumph, the gallant youth expired!

a large sail was discerned from the Minerva soon after day-break. Captain Hood immediately gave orders to chase. His antagonist was the Warwick, an old English ship, pierced for 60 guns, and mounting 34, commanded by M. Le Verger de Belair. Her crew amounted to about three hundred men, including a company of soldiers, which were destined to reinforce the garrison at Pondicherry. It was past ten before the Minerva came up with her; when Captain Hood, notwithstanding his inferiority, ran alongside, and began the engagement. The fire on both sides was terrible. "At eleven,* her main and fore-top mast went away, and soon after she came on board us on the starboard bow, and then fell alongside; but the sea soon parted us, when the enemy fell astern. About a quarter after eleven, the Minerva's bowsprit went away, and the fore-mast soon followed it: these were very unfortunate accidents, and I almost despaired of being able to attack the enemy again. However, I cut the wreck away as soon as possible; and, about one o'clock, cleared the ship of it, with the loss of one man and the sheet-anchor. I then wore the ship, and stood for the enemy, who was about three leagues to leeward of me. At four o'clock, I came up close to the enemy, and renewed the attack. About a quarter before five she struck; when I found she had fourteen killed, and thirty-two wounded. Our numbers

* Captain Hood's Letter to Government.

are,

are, the boatswain and thirteen killed, and the gunner and thirty-three wounded: the former and two seamen died on the 27th. I have given my thanks to the officers and crew of his Majesty's ship for their firm and spirited behaviour; and I have great pleasure in acquainting their lordships with it. At nine o'clock, the main-mast of the Minerva went away; at eleven, the mizen-mast followed it."

Captain Hood rose, by this gallant action, high in the estimation of his Sovereign and the public. It gave celebrity to his character, and placed his merit as an officer above the common level. He was, in consequence, appointed, in August, 1761, to command part of the squadron destined to convey the present queen to England. After the peace of Paris in 1763, he obtained a guard-ship at Portsmouth; and, in 1766, soon after the usual period of his command had elapsed, succeeded Sir Charles Saunders as the treasurer of Greenwich-Hospital.

On the prospect of hostilities with France, he sailed from St. Helen's on the 8th of June, 1778, in the Robust, of 74 guns, being part of the grand Channel fleet under the command of Admiral Keppel. On the 28th, they returned into port, with the French frigates Pallas and Licorne, which had been captured; and they sailed again on Friday, the 10th of July. The Brest fleet, consisting of thirty-two sail, five frigates, and five gondolas, had also in the interim put to sea. After some days

spent in manœuvring, the action between the two fleets commenced off Ushant on the 27th of July. The winds were constantly in the N. W. and S. W. sometimes blowing strong, and the French fleet, being always to windward, kept aloof. The French began their fire on the 27th upon the headmost of Vice-Admiral Harland's division; and the two fleets, being on different tacks, passed very near each other, engaging sharply along the whole line. Towards the close of day, the enemy formed their fleet again; a proceeding which Admiral Keppel did not prevent, as he conceived they meant handsomely to meet him the next morning. He was, however, disappointed in this expectation, as they took the advantage of the night, and, on the following morning, were out of sight. Captain Hood was stationed in the line, in the blue division, as second to its admiral, Sir Hugh Palliser. The Robust, on the morning of the 27th, had been ordered with other ships, by signal from the Victory, to chase to windward; and, during the subsequent action, she was rather severely handled by the enemy. A large shot went through the main-mast, two through the fore-mast, two struck the bowsprit, and one slightly wounded the mizen-mast. The main-topmast was shot in two or three places; the main-topsail-yard shot away; the fore-topgallant-mast shot in two; the mizen-yard received two shot, and besides she had received about fourteen shot under water, one of which, being a forty-eight pounder, rendered the situation of the

crew dangerous; and it was eight o'clock in the evening before they could stop the leak. The sails of the Robust were much cut; most of the braces, bowlines, and running rigging, with many of the lower and topmast yards, and two of the starboard lower-deck ports, were shot away. Notwithstanding, however, that his ship was so much damaged, she was fought so judiciously, that only five men were killed and seventeen wounded. Captain Hood returned with the fleet to Spithead on the 28th of October, and did not go to sea again until he obtained an admiral's flag.

The subsequent trials of the two commanders, Lord Keppel and Sir Hugh Palliser, and the part taken by Sir Alexander Hood on the occasion, drew upon him much popular odium at the time. He was, however, on the 26th of September, 1780, appointed Rear-Admiral of the White; and having, in 1782, hoisted his flag on board the Queen, of 90 guns, he was appointed to command the second, or larboard, division of the centre squadron in the grand fleet, which was sent under the command of Lord Howe to relieve Gibraltar. On the 19th of October, Lord Howe, having effected the object of his voyage, took the advantage of a fair wind to re-pass the Streights. He was followed by the combined fleet of the enemy, consisting of forty-six sail of the line. The British fleet being formed to leeward to receive them, the enemy were left to take the distance at which they chose to engage. The French division commenced its cannonade

cannonade about sun-set on the van and rear, the chief attack being on the latter, and the fire was soon commenced along the whole line, at a considerable distance, and with little effect. It was returned occasionally from the ships of the British fleet, as the nearer approach of the enemy afforded a favourable opportunity of making an impression upon them; but, as the British commander had no orders to risk a general engagement, he kept his course all night in full sail, and thus the fleets separated.

The year following, Rear-Admiral Hood was chosen member for the borough of Bridgewater, and, on the 7th of May, 1788, he was invested with the order of the Bath. At the time of the apprehended rupture with Spain, on the 12th of May, 1790, Admiral Hood's flag was hoisted on board the London, of 98 guns. On the 4th of July, he commanded the van division of Admiral Barrington's fleet in Torbay, with his flag on board the Victory, of 100 guns.

On the 1st of February, 1793, Sir Alexander Hood was promoted to be vice-admiral of the red. During this year, his flag continued on board the Royal George, with a command under Earl Howe in the Channel fleet. On the famous 1st of June, and on the preceding days, his ship was particularly distinguished. She commenced the action on the 29th of May, and, during that on the 1st of June, was exposed to an incessant cannonade. Sir Alexander, during the whole of this action, displayed in many instances his great skill and intrepidity.

repidity. The foremast, with the fore and main-top mast, of the Royal George, were shot away, and she had twenty men killed, and seventy-two wounded. On his return, he was presented with the gold chain and medal, with the other flag-officers and captains of the victorious fleet, and was afterwards created Baron Bridport.

His lordship acquired fresh laurels, off L'Orient, in June, 1795, in an engagement between the fleet he commanded and a fleet of the enemy. By a masterly manœuvre, he took, in this affair, three line-of-battle ships.

On the 31st of May, 1796, Lord Bridport was made a peer of Great Britain; and, since the late Lord Howe finally resigned the command of the Channel fleet, in 1797, the subject of this memoir has continued to hold it with great credit to himself and his country.

His first wife was a daughter of the Rev. Dr. West, and niece to the late Lord Viscount Cobham. By this marriage he became related to the Pitt and Lyttleton families. His lady dying in September, 1782, he was again married, on the 26th of June, 1788, to Miss Bray, only daughter of the late Thomas Bray, Esq. of Edmonton.

Lord Bridport first learnt the principles of our naval service under the Admirals Smith and Saunders. Those persons, who have served under his command, speak of him as their father, rather than as their superior officer. His name will certainly pass

pass down to posterity among the Howes, the Rodneys, the Ansons, the Russells, the Blakes, the Duncans, and the illustrious list of other naval heroes, who have contributed to raise their country to its present height of distinction and glory.

K.

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWN.

THE biography of an eminent statesman must necessarily be peculiarly interesting. It must in a great degree be the history of the times in which he flourished. It must record the events which owe their birth to his counsels or his authority. But it very rarely happens, as in the present instance, that those men, whom nature has qualified for high and dignified stations, exhibit in their personal character the pure and amiable affections, which, while they embellish their private lives, administer health and consistency to their public virtues.

The Marquis of Lansdown, the most considerable and enlightened statesman of his age, is descended in the male line from the house of Fitzgerald. Thomas Fitzmaurice, first Earl of Kerry, the offspring of a junior branch of the Leinster family, married Anne, daughter of the celebrated Sir William Petty, Knt. professor of anatomy

tomy in the university of Oxford, and who was one of the founders and first fellows of the Royal Society.*

John Fitzmaurice, the second son by this marriage, and the father of the present Marquis of Lansdown, was created EARL of SHELBURNE, Viscount Fitzmaurice, and Baron Dunkerton, in Ireland, and Baron Wycombe, in Great Britain, by his late Majesty George the Second, in 1753. The subject of these pages was created MARQUIS of LANSDOWN on the 30th of November, 1782. He bore a commission in the Guards early in life; and, during the seven-years war, served in Ger-

* Sir *William Petty*, the son of Anthony Petty, a clothier at Ramsey, in Hampshire, was educated at the grammar-school there, and went to Paris to study anatomy. In 1647, he obtained a patent from the parliament, for seventeen years, to teach the *art of double writing*. In 1648, he acted as deputy to Dr. Clayton, professor of anatomy at Oxford, obtained the degree of Doctor of Physic, and was, in 1651, elected professor of anatomy. He soon after went to Ireland as physician to the army; and, in 1654, entered into a contract for regulating the admeasurement of forfeited lands, by which he gained a considerable sum. He was also appointed clerk of the council in that kingdom. He improved his fortune very much by the purchase of soldiers' debentures, was knighted by Charles the Second in 1661, and was one of the first members of the Royal Society. He invented, soon after, a double-bottomed ship, which was tried and approved. It appears, from his last will, that he estimated his real estate at 6,500*l.* per annum; his personal estate at about 45,000*l.* and the improvements of his Irish property at 4,000*l.* per annum. He left, in all, to the amount of 15,000*l.* a year. — A prodigious fortune acquired from so small a beginning!

many

many as a volunteer under the present Duke of Brunswick.*

His lordship was born in the same year as his present Majesty, and succeeded to his father's title in May, 1761. He was afterwards appointed aid-de-camp to the King, and his military has since kept pace with his political rank: in 1763, we find him raised to be a major-general; in 1772, a lieutenant-general; and, in 1782, he became a general in the British army.

It was probably owing to the early acquaintance he had cultivated with the late Earl of Chatham, that he became attached to the party of that great statesman: an attachment no less creditable to their talents and integrity, than useful and honourable to their country. He was sworn first Lord of Trade and a Privy-Counsellor on the 16th of April, 1763, the day on which Lord Bute's administration gave way to that of Mr. George Grenville.

On the 30th of July, 1766, he was appointed, in Mr. Pitt's administration, one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, upon the resignation of the Duke of Richmond. He immediately took an efficient part in the administration, at that time denominated Lord Chatham's Ministry, the ostensible head of which was the present Duke of

* At the battle of Campen, and on other occasions, his lordship has evinced great personal courage. This quality afterwards served him when, in 1781, he was constrained to fight a duel with Colonel Fullerton, for words spoken in his place in parliament.

Grafton.

Grafton. The Earl of Chatham, however, who held the office of Lord Privy-Seal, was known to be the actual director of its counsels. During this period, the late venerable and respected Camden held the great seal, the first Earl of Northington was president of the privy-council, and the Marquis of Granby had the command of the army. The executive power was never wielded by men who possessed more ability and independence; but they had to encounter the extensive influence of the Rockingham party whom they had displaced. That party had acquired popularity from the repeal of the Stamp-Act and the restoration of harmony and confidence to America; they had avowed themselves the determined enemies of favouritism and secret influence, at that time held in universal dread and detestation; and, as it was notorious that Lord Bute, who had retired from power in 1763, still preserved his influence over the party who succeeded him under Mr. George Grenville, the nation was naturally disposed to suspect that the new administration was subject to the same control. The event justified these fears; for, notwithstanding the professed independence of the ministry, and their aversion to the schemes and measures of what was denominated the Scotch faction, yet such was their want of coherence and union in parliament, that they found themselves equally unable to resist the intrigues of favouritism in the cabinet, and the influence of the

the Rockingham party in the House of Commons.

Could these two great parties, headed by the Marquis of Rockingham and the Earl of Chatham, have been persuaded to form a vigorous and well-cemented combination against the increasing influence which they both dreaded, the dangerous faction could never have prevailed. But, though no expedient for this purpose was left untried by the friends of both, and by all the best patriots in the country, their efforts were unfortunately ineffectual. Had this union been accomplished, we should not, probably, at this day, have to lament the separation of America. The right assumed by the British parliament to tax the colonies was never admitted either by the Marquis of Rockingham or the Earl of Chatham, but was most strenuously denied and resisted by them, from the origin to the termination of the subsequent contest. The dispute with America would therefore never have originated with men, who held in superstitious reverence wise and liberal maxims of policy, which were grossly violated by the absurd and unjust attempt to tax the colonies.

As no means could be devised to unite these popular leaders, the new administration had but a short existence. The Earl of Chatham was the first who resigned, avowing, as his reason, in the House of Lords, that " his measures were counteracted by a *secret influence* behind the throne, more

more powerful than majesty itself." Lord Shelburne soon followed, having been thwarted in his design to relieve the Corsicans, who were then making brave and laudable exertions under Paoli, their leader, for the restoration of their liberties. The Duke of Grafton and the Marquis of Granby were the only patriotic members of the cabinet who retained their places, a circumstance which exposed them to the severe animadversions and invectives of Junius.

From this period, till the year 1782, we find the Earl of Shelburne in honourable opposition to all the measures of government, preserving a consistency and uniformity of principle, highly creditable to his political character. From 1770 to 1782 was certainly the most brilliant period of his public life. Among the measures of great public importance which he reprobated was, the decision of the House of Commons upon the legal and constitutional return of Mr. Wilkes to represent the county of Middlesex in parliament.* He opposed the power asserted by the two Houses, in the case of the printers, to punish by fine and imprisonment in cases where they themselves were accusers, judge, and jury, without a trial in the regular course of law, by a jury of their peers. He exposed the folly and wickedness of the Ame-

* He also adopted a spirited line of conduct, in 1770, on the introduction of a bill for the repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, and, on its loss, he protested with the Dukes of Portland, Richmond, and other lords.

rican war through every stage of its progress. He resisted the increasing influence of the crown, and the enormous additions to the public debt. He suggested an inquiry into the public expenditure, proposed an abolition of useless places and of unnecessary expenses in various departments of the state, and brought forward various motions which tended to establish a more rigid system of public economy. During this period, no question of importance was agitated in parliament in which the Earl of Shelburne did not take a leading part, and always on the patriotic or popular side.

The death of the Earl of Chatham placed him at the head of his political connection, which, indeed, prior to that event, had begun to be distinguished by the denomination of *the Shelburne party*, and already united, among other eminent personages, the Duke of Grafton, Earl Camden, Mr. Dunning, Colonel Barré, and Mr. Alderman Townsend; inconsiderable in point of numbers, but pre-eminent in talents, eloquence, and popularity. In 1780, this party was reinforced by the yet untried powers of the present minister, who, to the hereditary influence of a great name, joined the promise he had always given of extraordinary talents.

On the overthrow of Lord North, in 1782, the long-desired union of the Rockingham and Shelburne parties actually took place; and an administration was formed which united the patriotism, virtue, and ability, of these two powerful interests.

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The Marquis of Rockingham was placed at the head of the Treasury, and Lord John Cavendish of the Exchequer; Mr. Fox, appointed secretary of state, was the efficient minister; Lord Keppel was placed at the head of the Admiralty; the Duke of Richmond at that of the Ordnance; and General Conway had the command of the army; the Earl of Shelburne accepted the management of the foreign department, for which he was certainly the best qualified of any person in Europe; Earl Camden was made president of the council; the Duke of Grafton, privy-seal; Mr. Dunning was created Lord Ashburton, and appointed chancellor of the Dutchy Court of Lancaster; and Lord Thurlow was permitted to retain the Great Seal, which he had obtained during the former administration. The Rockingham party had a majority of voices, the first six members having acted in close unison during the time they had been in opposition. Mr. Burke, Colonel Barré, and the rest of the leading characters in the two Houses of Parliament, filled the secondary offices. If ever there was a party of political men, which derived its strength from the feelings and support of the country at large, it was this administration. Ambassadors or pacific intimations were immediately dispatched to the various European courts. The Duke of Portland and General Fitzpatrick were sent with powers to tranquillize Ireland. Useless places, the salaries of which amounted to upwards of seventy thousand pounds a year, were

abolished. Persons holding offices under government were deprived, by act of parliament, of the right of voting or interfering in elections. Contractors were rendered ineligible to sit or vote in the House of Commons. Projects of parliamentary reform were framed with the best omens of success, and an inquiry instituted into the state of the representation of the people.—All this was done in the short space of three months!

The most fatal calamity that could fall upon the country at such a moment blasted these fair and promising expectations. The death of the Marquis of Rockingham dissolved the union on which the people had placed their unbounded confidence, and the current of reformation was instantly stopped. Disappointed that the Duke of Portland was not placed at the head of the Treasury, Mr. Fox, Lord Keppel, and Lord John Cavendish, immediately resigned their situations, and were followed by Mr. Burke and all the principal leaders of that party in both Houses of Parliament. The Earl of Shelburne was placed by the King, whose confidence he had particularly secured, at the head of the Treasury, in the room of the Marquis of Rockingham; Mr. William Pitt succeeded Lord John Cavendish as chancellor of the Exchequer; Lord Howe was placed at the head of the Admiralty in the room of Lord Keppel; and Lord Grantham and Lord Sydney were appointed secretaries of state.

The new administration were unjustly accused of an intention of continuing the American war, on the ground that they were willing to grant every thing the Americans demanded, short of independence, without the full and unconditional acknowledgement of which, it was well known, peace could not be obtained. The acknowledgement of it on the part of Great Britain was, therefore, nothing more than admitting in words what was possessed in fact, and about which it would have been the very consummation of national folly to have wasted more blood and treasure. However, this imputation was soon done away by a peace with all the powers with whom we were at war, and by the acknowledgement of American independence, which preceded the signing of the preliminary articles.

It was farther objected against the administration, that it was not sincere in pursuing its plan of parliamentary reform and the proposed retrenchments of the public expenditure. But, when it is recollected that the latter measure was first introduced into the House of Commons by Colonel Barré, the confidential friend of the new minister, who represented one of his lordship's boroughs, and that it was supported in the Upper House by Lord Shelburne himself, credit must be given him for the honourable intentions on that important subject. With respect to the part he took in the reform of the representation, he had not, like the Duke of Richmond and Mr. Pitt, given a solemn

pledge to the public, by placing himself at the head of any of the reforming societies; nor did he originally propose the measure to either House of Parliament. He has, however, always professed his conviction of the necessity of that reform, and his most intimate friends have been the foremost on all occasions to promote its success.

The period of Lord Shelburne's administration, which was only nine months, including the prorogation of parliament, allowed him no time to effect more than he actually did accomplish.

The unnatural and disgraceful coalition which took place at this time between the Rockingham party and those who had held the reins of government, from the resignation of Lord Chatham's administration to the year 1782, under Lord North, forming a considerable majority of the members of both Houses of Parliament, the Earl of Shelburne and his newly-formed ministry were compelled to resign in December, 1783.* Mr. Fox, Lord John Cavendish, and Lord Keppel, now resumed their former places; the Duke of Portland was placed at the head of the Treasury; General Conway at that of the army; Lord North was made secretary of state; Lord Stormont, president of the council; Lord Carlisle,

* The Earl of Shelburne submitted to the decision of the House of Commons, which had passed a vote of disapprobation on the treaty of peace, and resigned his place to his opponents. It is said, however, that a little relaxation in his principles and opinions would have enabled him to preserve his majority; but he chose to resign rather than compromise his honour and his feelings.

privy-

privy-seal; and Lord Loughborough was put at the head of a commission for holding the Great Seal.

The Earl of Shelburne now became the head of a new opposition which united his own immediate connections with a few of the Rockingham party, not included in the coalition, and the whole of that description of politicians, who are distinguished by the appellation of *the King's friends.*

To secure a majority in both Houses, the coalition neither courted popularity nor paid great deference to the feelings of the court. A bill was brought into parliament for vesting the management of the whole concerns of the East-India Company, and the government of India, in seven commissioners and nine sub-commissioners, to be elected periodically by the House of Commons. This measure, it was easily perceived, would take the whole patronage of India out of the hands of the crown, and deprive the Company itself of the management of its own concerns, while it tended to throw such a weight of influence into the scale of the existing ministry, as would enable their majority to appoint the East-India commissioners, and the East-India commissioners, in return, to elect the majority of the House of Commons! The crown and the people felt, therefore, an equal interest in opposing this bill; and, while it was pending in the House of Lords, after having passed the House of Commons, his Majesty suddenly dismissed his ministers!

At this eventful period, the whole country looked up to the Marquis of Lansdown, expecting that he would re-assume the reins of Government; but, when the new administration was announced, no inconsiderable degree of surprise was occasioned in the nation, to find that Mr. William Pitt, who had been chancellor of the Exchequer during the administration of his lordship, and who was then only in the four-and-twentieth year of his age, was appointed first lord of the Treasury as well as chancellor of the Exchequer; and that the Earl of Shelburne, who took the lead in the opposition to the coalition-administration, was entirely excluded from the new arrangements!

This circumstance has been attributed to his having declined the responsibility of an administration formed in opposition to the sense of that part of the House of Commons which still adhered to the dismissed party; a difficulty which could only be surmounted by a dissolution of parliament: others, however, attribute his being passed over to some juvenile intrigues of Mr. Pitt.

His lordship is said to have called the new ministry a *rope of sand*; and having, moreover, a very slender opinion of their talents, he did not choose to risk his own great popularity by a connection with them. The coalition which formed it was also, in many respects, as monstrous as that, headed by Messrs. Fox and North, which had just been driven from power. His lordship continued, however, for some years on good terms with the new ministry,

ministry, and, besides receiving for himself the titles of Marquis of Lansdown and Earl of Wycombe, he obtained a well-earned provision for Colonel Barré and some other of his friends.

The MARQUIS of LANSDOWN now retired to the enjoyments of private life at his country-mansion in the style of a country-gentleman. The commencement of the present war, and the important events of the French revolution, first drew him from his retreat. Of this unfortunate contest, he has uniformly denied the justice and the necessity, in its origin as well as in every stage of its progress. He has, in consequence, acted for several years in decisive hostility to the ministry and their measures; and, though he still keeps aloof from the party of Mr. Fox, yet their political opinions and sympathies appear to coincide.

As a statesman, the Marquis of Lansdown is universally acknowledged to possess first-rate qualities. As a senator, he is the most interesting and fascinating speaker in the Upper House, and is second to no one in the force of his arguments and in the poignancy of his satire; and, above all, for the deep information with which his speeches abound. Though in the sixty-first year of his age, he retains all the energy, the wit, and the acuteness of penetration,* which have so eminently distinguished

* In person, he has often been admired for the dignity of his deportment and the intelligence of his countenance. Many persons

tinguished him through the whole of his brilliant and honourable career.

In domestic life, his lordship's favourite pursuits have always been architecture and the magnificent embellishment of his houses. His palace in Berkeley-Square is esteemed the most elegant and sumptuous in Great Britain. All the cielings are painted by Cypriani, and the collection of paintings and other decorations are by the greatest masters. The furniture alone is estimated to be worth one hundred thousand pounds; and, such is the fondness of the owner for this kind of excellence, that artists of various descriptions are always employed about the premises in making additions, and improvements.

His library is a *chef-d'œuvre*. It is one hundred and ten feet in length, and ornamented with the most valuable Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman statues. The cieling is painted by Cypriani from the antiquities found in Herculaneum. The collection of books is worthy of this magnificent apartment and honourable to the taste of the owner. It consists of about ten thousand volumes of the most valuable books, in all languages, which are arranged in a classical and scientific manner. It

sons have conceived that a strong general likeness existed between him and the unfortunate Louis the Sixteenth; there is, doubtless, more expression and force in the features of the Marquis. He has, for many years, been a martyr to repeated attacks of the gout; but these have not diminished his flow of spirits and his attachment to books and the arts.

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is most complete, and perhaps *unique* in the extent of its political collection, and as containing every work which has been published in France and England on the subject of the French revolution.

His lordship's first wife was the daughter of the late Earl Granville, by whom he has only one son living, viz. the present Earl of Wycombe, a patriotic member of parliament for the borough of High Wycombe. His second lady was Lady Louisa Fitzpatrick, sister to the present Earl of Ossory and the Dowager Lady Holland, mother to the present Lord Holland, by whom he has another son, Lord John Henry Petty, now in the 19th year of his age.

This distinguished nobleman possesses the immense fortune accumulated by his great-grandfather, and he has always expended it with princely liberality.* He is a most generous patron of the arts and literature, and many instances might easily be enumerated of his bounties to deserving and distressed men of letters. Few characters in the political walks of life have sustained that consistency of conduct and principle which has marked the life of this illustrious personage; but, as it is the fate of all great men to have powerful rivals and enemies, he has not been exempted from his share of their impotent reproach. His

* His rent-roll is said formerly to have been £35,000 per annum.

patriotic

patriotic conduct during the American war; his necessary peace of 1783; his subsequent submission to a decision of the House of Commons; his manly opposition to a war which has threatened the very existence of the country; his able speeches in parliament, during a period of thirty-eight years; and his munificence in his own elegant pursuits; will become his faithful eulogium when the senseless turbulency and calumny of parties are forgotten.

A. D.

SIR JOHN PARNELL,

EX-CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER IN IRELAND.

THIS gentleman, whose late dismission from office has been the subject of conversation in the parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland, is the grandson of the late Dean Parnell, author of the Hermit, &c. whose memory is also perpetuated by an excellent Parian marble busto placed in the library of Trinity-College, Dublin.

The honour of a baronetage was conferred upon this gentleman's father by his present Majesty November 3d, 1766: the title descended to Sir John about the year 1783. Soon after this gentleman attained the age of manhood, he was returned to serve in the Irish parliament for Queen's county, for

for which county he still continues to be one of the sitting members.

In the late Earl of Northington's administration, Sir John Parnell was appointed one of the commissioners of Customs and Excise; and, as such offices do not exclude gentlemen from the parliament of the sister-kingdom, Sir John continued to give his assistance to the administration in the Irish senate.

For a series of years a great intimacy has existed between Sir John and Mr. Foster, speaker of the Irish House of Commons, whom he is known to have consulted upon every question of great national concern, and to whose exertions he is not a little indebted for his appointment, as that gentleman's successor, in the important office of chancellor of the Exchequer, in the year 1786, under the administration of the late Duke of Rutland.

Sir John continued in the industrious discharge of the duties of this station for ten years, under the successive administrations of the Duke of Rutland, Marquis of Buckingham, and Earl Westmorland, with unshaken steadiness. Upon the arrival of Earl Fitzwilliam, in 1795, he appeared to totter in his office; he, however, despised a stubborn consistency, and cheerfully co-operated with Mr. Grattan and the other members of the Opposition, who then came into power. He thus secured his continuance in office during the short-lived administration of that illustrious nobleman, and also during that of Earl Camden, and part of that of the Marquis

Marquis Cornwallis; by whom he has, however, been recently dismissed.

This gentleman is an instance that perseverance and industry, without brilliancy of talents, will enable persons to rise to the highest offices of the state. There is nothing of superior talent apparent in Sir John Parnell. He certainly possesses a large portion of sound sense, but he is a slow heavy man, with an ungraceful action and an inharmonious loud voice, which, in the senate, frequently rises to discord and harshness. He is quite destitute of brilliant or persuasive eloquence; but, being the official organ, aided by a steady majority, his measures and proposals required but a few prefatory observations, and they were never endangered by the influence of the talents of Opposition.

When the important question of an incorporating legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland was introduced into the Irish parliament, Sir John Parnell was disinterestedly against the adoption, or even introduction, of the measure. The result was, that he was dismissed from his office by the Marquis Cornwallis, and a successor appointed in the person of Mr. Corry.

He is now nearly fifty years of age, is married, and has several children; his principal country-residence is at Bathleague, near Maryborough, in Queen's county. Upon the death of a near relation, in the year 1796, he succeeded to one of the most beautiful and highly-cultivated estates in Ireland, called Avon-Dale, in the county of Wick-

low, for many years possessed by that amiable and much-valued character, the late Samuel Hayes, Esq. who, dying without issue, bequeathed this small estate, for many years the constant care, delight, and pride of his life, to his worthy relation, the present Sir John Parnell.

W. Y.

MR. ROBERT SOUTHEY,

THE subject of the present memoir, though a very young person, and of a retired disposition, is justly entitled to a place among the public characters of this country, being well known as a man of letters, but more particularly as a poet. His largest poem, Joan of Arc, was written by him at an earlier period than Lucan wrote his Pharsalia. Like the Roman poet, too, the author is a strenuous assertor of liberty.

Mr. Robert Southey was born at Bristol, August the 12th, 1774. His father was a linen-draper in that town, a man who had been so accustomed to regulate his motions by the neighbouring-clock, that the clock might at length (so punctual were his movements) have been regulated by him. He was, also, extremely fond of the country and its employments.

The spirit of the father rested on the son; for, the father's favourite instructions to all around him were,

were, to tie the stockings up tight, and to be punctual. Robert, to this day, is said to tie up his stockings very tight, even unwholesomely, and in engagements is punctual to a minute. His poetry, too, is very conversant in rural objects. The father, though a worthy man, was unfortunate, and died of a broken heart in consequence of embarrassments.

At six years of age, young Southey went to the school kept by Mr. Foot, at Bristol, and which is now ably managed by Mr. Estlin, and one of the most respectable dissenting academies in this country. At the death of Mr. Foot, he was removed to Carston, near Bath. He left Carston when he was eight years of age. The re-visiting of this place gave birth to some of those feelings expressed in that pleasing poem, entitled the *Retrospect*, published in a volume, printed in 1795, the joint production of our author and his friend Robert Lovel.

Southey continued at a day-school in Bristol till he was thirteen years of age, and wrote rhymes when he was but ten. He was also taught by his aunt to relish Shakespeare and Beaumont and Fletcher. For one year he was under a clergyman who taught a select number of pupils for a few hours in the morning. At fourteen, he was removed to Westminster-School.

At this school he continued, in the practice of the public schools, to write bad Latin verses; his English verses were more decent, and indicated, that the author might, in future life, reach excellence.

lence. He continued to abide by his father's rules for punctuality, and is said never to have undergone any corporal punishment; he, however, it seems, possessed sympathies with such as did, and wrote some essays in a periodical paper entitled the Flagellant.

Robert was entered at Baliol-College, Oxford, in November, 1792. His turn of mind was serious, his affections ardent, and he became a republican. He, to this day, is proud of being thought a republican, and not without reason. For, (contrary to the opinion of some,) politics, the most important of morals, is in a high degree favourable to poetic genius; and some of the best poets have been the most enlightened advocates of freedom. The book that most influenced his judgement was Mr, Godwin's Political Justice. In the summer of this year, he became acquainted with Mr. Coleridge, a student at that time of Jesus' College, Cambridge, and who was then on a visit to a friend at Oxford. Coleridge, no less than Southey, possessed a strong passion for poetry. They commenced, like two young poets, an enthusiastic friendship, and, in connection with others, struck out a plan for settling in America, and for having all things in common. This scheme they called Pantisocracy, of which, however visionary it may be thought by some, Southey still approves the theory.

Southey first became acquainted with Lovel in 1793. The three young poetical friends, Lovel,

Southey, and Coleridge, married three sisters; Southey is attached to domestic life, and, fortunately, was very happy in his matrimonial connection. He married in November, 1795, just before he left England to accompany his uncle to Spain and Portugal. He continued abroad six months.

Of his religious sentiments we shall say but little. Poets are often the children of fancy rather than of reason; and, whether they are Deists, Socinians, or Calvinists, correct inquirers will not regulate their judgements by the writings of poets. It seems, however, Southey was once a Deist; then he became a Socinian; though several sentiments contained in the Joan of Arc are scarcely reconcilable with the belief of a Socinian. Whatever his religious persuasions, however, may be, he is tolerant in principle, and destitute of bigotry; he shuns close argument, and professes to know little of metaphysics. Whatever his opinions may be for the time, he never conceals them, and is cautious that other people should not mistake them.

All his intellectual endowments he professes to owe to his mother's uncle, chaplain to the factory at Lisbon, a man of a most excellent character, of whom Mr. Southey always speaks with that sense of gratitude, which argues a good heart. It was with this gentleman that Mr. Southey travelled into Spain and Portugal.

He is now member of Gray's Inn, though he principally resides in the country; and is at pre-

sent engaged in writing an epic poem, entitled Madoc, which he intends to keep under correction for several years.

It is in the closet where we should contemplate such a character as Robert Southey. We must not look for great variety of incidents in the history of a young man, now only twenty-five years of age, immersed in reading, and impassionately attached to poetry. We will then close with a short account of his writings.

In the year 1795, he published his first volume of poems, in connection with his friend Robert Lovel, the former assuming the name of Moschus, the latter of Bion. Without noticing any particular blemishes that maturer judgement would have corrected, some of which, in subsequent volumes, are now corrected, it may be proper, in general, to say, that the sonnets to Ariste are pretty; and the Retrospect and Ode to Romance have considerable merit. On reading the poems of Robert Lovel, the admirers of poetry will lament his early death; for, unquestionably, he had a poetical mind. His sonnets to Happiness and Fame are particularly excellent.

In the year 1796, Mr. Southey published his Joan of Arc, an epic poem, in ten books. It would be improper to inquire into its particular beauties and defects here. If examined by the rules laid down by Aristotle for the epic, it will be found defective. But, it might be asked, are Aris-

totle's the invariable rules for the epic? Are they to be the eternal law? And has no other poet ventured to go against them? These are questions not to be urged here. Without pretending to fix the character of Joan of Arc by the ordinary rules of the epic, without inquiring into the truth of the theology, the justice of the representations, and the like, we consider the Joan of Arc to possess great beauties that cannot fail to please all the lovers of poetry; and, provided they do not forget they are reading the writings of a mere poet, (for, the poet always claimed the power of raising spirits, conjuring up visions, or making gods and goddesses, and even devils, at his pleasure,) they may justly be delighted with the simplicity and richness of the descriptions, the harmony of the numbers, the amiable spirit of benevolence, and the love of liberty, so prominent in Joan of Arc.

This poem (surprising as it may be thought) was written, Mr. Southey tells us in his preface, in six weeks. Whatever, therefore, its faults may be, (though haste, simply considered, is never allowed by strict criticism to be an apology for negligence,) yet when it is recollected, that it was the almost-extemporaneous production of a young man, writing for bread, great allowances will be made; though, indeed, before it was brought into its present shape, it underwent more than ordinary correction, and was twice written over again. The verse is heroic or Iambic verse, of ten syllables,

without rhyme, called by us blank verse, and is, generally speaking, excellent of its kind. The second edition makes two elegant volumes.

The next volume of poems, published by Southey, contains the productions of very distant periods. They possess different degrees of merit; for, where a person writes with that uncommon rapidity with which Mr. Southey composes, he will not always write like himself. The Triumph of Woman is a fine poem. The sonnets on the Slave-Trade breathe much benevolence, and do the author great honour. The lyric poems, though possessed of a good deal of the fire of poetry, are yet defective in many of those qualities required of that most polished and useful, though difficult, species of poetry, by which Mr. Southey has thought proper to denominate them, Lyric. Some of them should rather have been called *copies* of verses, a name commonly given to little pieces written on the spur of the moment, and reducible to no distinct class. — MARY is a very affecting narrative, and justly admired.

In the year 1799, he published another volume of poems with this motto:

> The better please, the worse displease, I ask no more.
>
> SPENSER.

These are, for the most part, of the story or ballad kind, and imitative of the style of the old English ballads. Of this number are, the Complaints of the Poor, the Cross-Roads, the Sailor who had served in the Slave-Trade, &c. This volume also

contains the Visions of the Maid of Orleans, in three Books, which composed the ninth book of the first edition of Joan of Arc, and formed what Mr. Southey called the original sin of the poem. Considered as mere poetry, these three books possess many beauties.

Another volume of poems has just made its appearance, entitled THE ANNUAL ANTHOLOGY, of which Mr. Southey wrote a great part. It is a miscellaneous composition, though entirely poetical, and written by different authors. The other contributors are, Mr. Taylor, of Norwich, Mr. Charles Lloyd, Mrs. Opie, Mr. George Dyer, Mr. Joseph Cottle, Mr. Charles Lamb, the late Mr. Robert Lovel, Mr. A. S. Cottle, Mr. Humphrey Davy, and Dr. Beddoes.

This volume is entirely original, with the exception of some pieces that made their appearance in the Morning Post; and, being composed by persons of different tastes, must of course possess considerable variety. Every reader, therefore, who has a relish for poetry, may expect to find something suited to his taste in the Annual Anthology; for, it unquestionably contains many excellent compositions.

It remains, just to say a word of the only prose work written by Mr. Southey, which comprehends his travels, entitled Letters written during a short Residence in Spain and Portugal. This work has been well received, and a second edition has been published not long since,

The most curious part of this work relates to the Spanish and Portuguese poetry. In all countries, as Mr. Southey properly observes, "the era of genius has preceded that of taste; and taste has not yet been reached by the Spanish and Portuguese poets." Genius they have undoubtedly possessed, as may be seen in the La Hermosura de Angelica, an heroic poem, by Lope Felix de Vega Carpio, of which Mr. Southey has given a fair and large specimen; and the Lusiad, of which we have an English translation, by Mr. Mickle. The Diana of George of Mountemayer, from the beautiful specimen given by Mr. Southey, proves the author to have been a man of an elegant fancy. But the characters of the Spaniards and Portuguese are strongly marked by extravagance and superstition, and so is their poetry. Yet, all things considered, more particularly the terrors of their government, and the gloominess of their religion, we are rather surprised that the Spaniards and Portuguese should have done so much, even in poetry, than that they have not done more. And their poetical compositions, amidst much futility and extravagance, contain many things that the curious will like to peruse, and which the ingenious cannot fail to admire. The second edition of Mr. Southey's letters is unaccompanied with his translations of Spanish and Portuguese poetry. These, we are happy to hear, are to form a distinct volume; and, when enlarged and adorned

by Mr. Southey's remarks, cannot fail of being favourably received by the public.

E. R.

DOCTOR PATRICK DUIGENAN.

THIS gentleman is a most interesting subject to the speculative and philosophic reader. His mind is not so much of a novel, as of an obsolete, cast; for, from some strange combination of circumstances, some odd admixture of ingredients in his temperature, he seems capable of feeling no sentiment, of uttering no thought, but those which would have befitted a monkish polemic of three centuries back. His very language and look partake of this complexion of mind; and one might know, either from his diction or his face, that he was designed for some of those ages which are gone by, where the religious zealot evinced the purity of his faith by the foulness of his language, and displayed the Christian charity of his heart by intolerance and persecution.

Of the family from which Dr. Patrick Duigenan descended nothing is generally known; but, from the very sound of the name, it is obvious it must have been perfectly Irish; nor would it be rash to infer, that it must have been Catholic as well as Irish. For, though there are considerable numbers of that name in the country, yet not in one instance

instance of one hundred is it found to designate a protestant or a sectary. It is among the felicities of the Doctor, therefore, that his talents and his virtues are not obscured by the splendour of ancestry, and that his strong attachment to the established church and Protestant ascendency cannot be attributed to early prejudice.

Dr. Duigenan was educated in the University of Dublin, in which he is said originally to have entered a sizer.—His industry was successively rewarded with a schoralship and fellowship; but whether it was that he did not at that time feel the same affection for the church which he has since manifested, or that he had a stronger predilection for a life of contest than of peace, he obtained leave to study law rather than take orders. He continued one of the two lay-fellows who alone are permitted in Dublin-College by its statutes, until Mr. Hely Hutchinson was appointed provost. On the accession of that gentleman to the government of the university, Dr. Duigenan conceived for him the most invincible antipathy; it appeared in every act, and pervaded the whole tenor of his conduct. Whatever might have been the demerits of Mr. Hutchinson, he had at least the praise of being a gentleman highly polished, of an elegant mind, and considerable acquirements in polite literature. These qualities, however, were not fitted to mitigate the fierce dislike which the Doctor had conceived of his new head, and he accordingly preferred quitting the college on the first opportunity, to paying

ing an unwilling obedience to the man he hated. The Doctor, however, did not recede in silence from his antagonist; he published a tract entitled *Lachrymæ Academicæ*, in which he attacked the provost with the most violent invective, and he sought, and it is said obtained, an opportunity of giving him the grossest personal insult. The provost passed over both with great composure, and the anger of his enemy expired from want of fire to feed it.

After Dr. Duigenan's retirement from college, he retained his place of lecturer in civil law, and some time afterward was appointed an ecclesiastical judge. His adherence to the old high-church principles finally procured him a seat in parliament, when the increasing liberality of public feeling made it likely that those principles might need an advocate to support them. Sent to the senate by clerical influence, Dr. Duigenan has never forgotten what he owes to his patrons, nor has he at any time omitted an occasion of inculcating, on the House and on the public, the virtues, the poverty, and the loyalty of the clergy, or of holding out popery and sectaries as the enemies of God and of religion, of moral duty and of good government. It is not only against papists and sectaries, as such, that the caustic eloquence of Dr. Duigenan is directed; the Irish as distinguished from the British settler, and their descendants in Ireland, are equally, at times, the smarting victims of his tongue; even a name sounding like that of an Irishman, or an Irish Catholic, furnishes a theme for the parliamentary in-

vective of the learned Doctor. The unfortunate name of *Keogh*, which belonged to a man sometime active in the cause of emancipation and reform, has more than once been pronounced by Dr. Patrick Duigenan in a manner and a tone, which, while it entertained a senate, spoke his contempt and scorn for Irish gutturals.

It would be doing great injustice to this learned gentleman to insinuate, that he is an indolent senator, except when the concerns of the church call for his exertions; the fact is, he is one of the most zealous supporters of the Irish administration, and the most devoted enemy of sedition in every form; but it must be acknowledged, that his powers are most happily raised when the interests of the clergy combine with the safety of the state, and when he labours at once for God and for his country. Hence it is, that he calls forth his finest figures, and flames with most heat, when he opposes such a man as Mr. Grattan, who so mistakingly would engraft religious freedom on civil liberty. Indeed, against such men as Mr. Grattan, the Doctor delights to pit himself. Even when that gentleman had retired from parliament, his address to his constituents, and some other trifles which appeared in public under his name, excited the attention and roused the fire of the Doctor. He attacked them in a pamphlet so much in the Doctor's strong way, so vehement, we do not say so scurrilous and so abusive, that Mr. Grattan thought himself called upon to give the gentleman, who had

had taken so much offence at him, some other way of obtaining satisfaction than mere writing would afford him; he accordingly left London, went to Dublin, and, after publishing an advertisement in most of the London and Dublin papers, in which he applied the strongest epithets of contempt to the Doctor's publication, gave notice, that for a certain number of days, in the advertisement mentioned, he should be found at Keams's Hotel, in Kildare-Street. The Doctor, however, on this occasion, shewed himself a well-disposed subject, who could not easily be persuaded to break the peace: he exerted no sagacity in finding out Mr. Grattan's meaning, and Mr. G. knowing perhaps the danger of giving an ecclesiastical judge a more explicit declaration of it, returned after some time to England.

It is remarkable, that Dr. Duigenan is at present a widower:—his wife was a very rigid Catholic; and, notwithstanding the vehemence of his declaration against popery, and his strong opposition to every popish claim, he kept constantly, during his wife's life, a Catholic priest in his house, as her confessor and chaplain. He is still a healthy strong man, though in declining years:—whether he will a second time connect himself with the abominations of Babylon, is a matter of curious speculation.

W. E.

MR.

MR. GEORGE PONSONBY.

THAT respect which great talents are always sure to meet from the public, when exerted in their service, Mr. Ponsonby has uniformly received; and, however he may at different times have ascended or fallen in the scale of popularity, his vigorous understanding and uncommon powers have invariably procured for him a distinguished place in the public estimation.

Mr. Ponsonby is descended from a family who have been long conspicuous in the political history of Ireland:—he is the second son of the late Right Honourable John Ponsonby, who for several years filled the important office of Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, and who was truly supposed to possess the greatest degree of influence possessed by any commoner, perhaps by any man, in the management of the sister-country. After receiving a very excellent school-education, Mr. Ponsonby was sent to the University of Cambridge, where, without the affectation of remarkable industry or seclusion, he láid in a stock of classical and general learning, which has since contributed to render him one of the brightest, if not the most shining ornament of the Irish senate. In the year 1780, he was called to the Irish bar; and, like most other gentlemen who come to the bar with an independent

pendent fortune, did not for some time distinguish himself by either great legal learning or singular industry in professional pursuits. His connection, however, with the men in power under the Marquis of Rockingham's administration, procured for Mr. Ponsonby the favour and patronage of the Duke of Portland, on his appointment to the viceroyalty of Ireland, in 1782. Under the auspices of that nobleman, he was presented with a silk gown, though only a barrister of two years standing, and at the same time was appointed first counsel to the Commissioners of the Revenue, a place of which the salary and emoluments together are estimated at about 1200*l.* per ann. The system of government in Ireland is thought to require, that he, who holds a place equally valuable with that which had been conferred on Mr. Ponsonby, should also have a seat in parliament, and support with his vote at least, if not with his talents, the measures of administration:— Mr. Ponsonby was accordingly brought into the House of Commons, and, agreeably to the tenure of his office, uniformly voted with the Minister, though it must be acknowledged he did not exert himself in the support of administration in any other way. Indeed, both as a senator and a lawyer, Mr. Ponsonby, during this period of his life, may be fairly charged with indolence; he was neither assiduous in his professional business, nor anxious to evince his attachment to his patrons, by any shew of talents or of zeal in his parliamentary character. Always fond of the sports and

and exercises of the field, the greater part of his time was devoted to the chase, and those convivial pleasures with which it is generally followed.

During the interval between the administration of the Duke of Portland, which began and ended in 1782, and the administration of the Marquis of Buckingham, which commenced in 1788, Mr. Ponsonby continued to enjoy his place and his pleasures in easy indolence. The Marquis, however, who made many patriots courtiers, made also some courtiers patriots:—of these latter, Mr. Ponsonby was one. The Marquis dismissed him from office, and appointed in his place Mr. Marcus Beresford, a stripling of the all-powerful house of that name in Ireland. So considerable a diminution as this occasioned in Mr. P.'s income, to which his having now got a family had rather made an increase necessary, rendered it incumbent on him to exert himself with more vigour than hitherto. He now therefore seriously began to cultivate his profession, nor was it long before he assumed that rank as a lawyer which his masculine and correct understanding entitled him to hold. In a little time business poured in upon him, with a rapidity which proved how high his character for talents stood with the public: and in parliament, too, he now began to display those rare qualifications for debate which have obtained for him the well-founded reputation of being the first parliamentary orator in the Irish House of Commons. The Marquis of Buckingham, too late, was enabled to calculate the amount of

of his loss in exchanging the talents of Mr. Ponsonby for the puerility and pertness of Master Beresford, yet an unfledged boy; nor did he find that loss compensated even by the smooth and superficial eloquence of Mr. Corry, whose support of his measures had followed his recent promotion to a place in the Ordnance. Against the measures of this administration, Mr. Ponsonby, in concert with a very respectable and numerous opposition, called forth all his powers;—nor was there one of the many topics of declamation or complaint against the Viceroy, which he did not repeatedly urge and aggravate, with all the force which argument or eloquence could lend, to hasten his retreat from the government. Of these topics, the principal was, the expense and rapidly-increasing corruption of administration, evinced by the then state of government-patronage in the House of Commons, where, out of three hundred members, there were one hundred and ten who enjoyed places and pensions under the crown. This cause of complaint the Marquis himself had greatly aggravated, by adding fourteen new placemen to the existing number, for whom situations were created by increasing the number of members at some of the public boards, and by dividing among two or more the duties and salaries of offices which had till then been filled by one individual.

In 1789, the melancholy occasion of the King's illness created a new source of discord between the Minister and Opposition, in the question on the appointment

appointment of a regent. Of this opportunity of evincing his attachment to the popular cause, Mr. Ponsonby took care to avail himself by maintaining with great strength of argument, and, as appeared by the event, with great success, the exclusive right of Ireland to nominate its own regent on the suspension of the royal functions. Mr. Grattan was in this contest the powerful co-adjutor of Mr. Ponsonby. The Irish Commons yielded to the joint exertions of the powers of those two distinguished senators, or rather perhaps to the delusive prospects which they conceived now opened to them, of pre-occupying the favour of a new sovereign, by protecting his rights against the mutilating hand of the Minister. The Prince of Wales was invited to assume the regency, unclogged by any restrictions whatsoever; and the viceroy, who, under the influence of his relation Mr. Pitt, had adopted the other side of this question, mortified by his disappointment, and the still more mortifying circumstances which attended it, withdrew from the government.

The triumph of the Opposition, however, was very short-lived: the happy restoration of the King's health soon taught the majority of that body the folly of their speculation, and induced many of them to atone, by very humiliating concessions, for having differed from the Minister. Mr. Ponsonby was not of this number; his opinion on the question of regency remained unchanged, his opposition to the system pursued in the administration of Ireland

was prosecuted with unabated vigour, and his exertions to expose and to defeat it continued to display as much zeal and vehemence, as when the hope of success in that attempt had been most flattering.

In consequence either of these continued efforts of Opposition to expose the corruption and incapacity of the government, or of that incapacity and corruption resorting to measures which goaded the Irish people to sedition and revolt, it is certain that discontent and disaffection began to grow in Ireland from the period we speak of, until it finally burst forth in the rebellion of 1798. Mr. Ponsonby's pertinacity, and that of those with whom he acted in Parliament, in continuing to reprobate the system on which the Irish government was conducted, and the unyielding, coercive, and obstinate spirit, with which the Minister punished, instead of attempting to reclaim, the misled, has, from the current of public opinion running the other way, induced a temporary obscuration on his political character. Mr. Ponsonby, however, still preserves a consistent steadiness of opinion and conduct on this head, apparently disregarding what imputations the madness or the prejudice of irritated party-spirit may attempt to throw upon his principles or his motives.

Of Mr. Ponsonby's oratorical exertions, the great features are simplicity and strength. His language is constantly the most plain and the most precise, unadorned by any of those rhetorical flourishes, which

vhich much more frequently weaken the effect of
ı popular address, rather than render it more im-
ɔressive. He seldom deigns even to use a meta-
phor; but, when he does, he selects always those
which are strong and obvious. His sentences are
generally short, and he is not very fastidious in
avoiding a repetition of the same idea when he
wishes to impress it strongly on the mind of his
auditory, or when there is any thing in its nature
which may make it liable to be misunderstood.
The matter of his speeches is generally of the
ɔest kind, selected by a strong understanding,
nder the guidance of plain sense, from an exten-
ive knowledge of politics and of mankind. It is
hiefly, however, in a debate that Mr. Ponsonby
celebrated; and he certainly possesses, in a very
ninent degree, either the *knack* or the *science* of
ɛposing and refuting the arguments of an adver-
ɪry. In this, his great memory is of the last im-
ɔrtance to him. He never takes notes, and yet
ill frequently recapitulate and answer, nearly in
e same order in which they were delivered, all
e arguments which have been urged by his an-
gonists in a debate of twelve or fourteen hours.
must be observed of Mr. P. that he strictly ob-
rves the rule given by Cicero to his orator, and
ısses over, in perfect silence, the arguments
hich he cannot *well* answer. He notices only
ıe feeble or the false parts of his opponent's rea-
ɔning; and, as he always makes it a point to
lose the debate, he thus is sure to attract from

his audience, on all occasions, the plaudits of vic-
tory. — Mr. P. is now somewhat above forty yea
old, his person inclining to plethoric, and the cas
of his countenance strong and coarse.

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP.

THIS determined opponent of African slaver
and true patriot, is a grandson of the celebrate
Dr. Sharp, archbishop of York, who, in the arb
trary reign of James the Second, so honourabl
distinguished himself as the champion of the Pro
testant religion and of the liberties of his countr
Dr. Sharp, immediately after the accession of Kin
William, was made a bishop, and afterwar
translated to the archbishopric of York, and h
continued to be the zealous defender of the libe
ties of his country during the whole period of hi
valuable life.

His son, the father of Mr. Granville Sharp, w
Dean of Durham, and emulated the pious zeal
his father, which he has transmitted, with all i
lustre, to that benevolent character who is the su
ject of this memoir.

If any man of the present day deserves th
name of philanthropist, it is Mr. Granville Shar
since his whole life has been one continued stru
gle to improve the condition of mankind, some
times by his literary labours, and, at other time
b

by the more active services of benevolence. To commiserate the unfortunate, in him, seems to be a radical instinct, which, by its force, overpowers those cold and prudential maxims, by which the conduct of the generality are too often regulated. As for those prejudices, which would exclude the oppressed of any country, condition, or complexion, from the rights of humanity, to him they are entirely unknown. The African torn from his country, and the sailor from his home, have ever found in him an eloquent and successful advocate. In his treatise on the Injustice and dangerous Tendency of tolerating Slavery, his arguments, though sometimes diffuse, are strong and convincing. In this work he clearly proves, that the law of nature, deduced from philosophical reasonings, supposes an equality among all mankind, independent of the laws of society; nor can any social compact suppose one man to surrender his liberty, with the propriety of his person, up to any other,—a barter for which he can receive nothing in exchange of equal value. One circumstance which contributed greatly to call the attention of Mr. Granville Sharp to the consideration of slavery, and its evil effects on society, as it is curious, and developes in a high degree the excellent qualities of his heart, shall be here fully related. It has this peculiarity, also, that on its merits the law of England was ascertained, concerning the right to freedom of every person treading on English soil: about which, many eminent lawyers had enter-

tained different opinions. The case is this:—A poor negro-lad, of the name of Somerset, labouring under a disorder that had been deemed incurable, and which had deprived him of his sight, was abandoned by his owner as an useless article of property, and turned into the streets of London to support his miserable existence by precarious charity. The poor creature, in this destitute and forlorn condition, was expiring on the pavement of one of the most public streets in London. Mr. Sharp chanced to pass that way. This gentleman beheld him with that sympathy which is characteristic of his benevolent disposition. He caused him to be immediately removed to Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, attended personally to his wants, and had the happiness, in a short time, to see him restored, by proper medical assistance and food, to the full enjoyment of his health and sight. The hand of beneficence extended still farther its fostering care; Mr. Sharp clothed him, and procured him a comfortable employment in the service of a lady of his acquaintance. Two years elapsed: the circumstance and even the name of the poor negro had escaped the memory of his benefactor, when Mr. Sharp received a letter from a person of the name of *Somerset*, confined in the Poultry-Compter, stating no cause for his commitment, but humbly entreating the protection of that goodness, which had formerly preserved his life, to save him from a greater calamity. The humanity of Mr. Granville Sharp

Sharp led him instantly to the prison, where he found the same poor negro who had been the object of his former compassion. His master, by whom he had been discarded in sickness and misery, and who had abandoned him to the world as an unserviceable and dying creature, seeing him accidentally behind the carriage of the lady to whom Mr. Sharp had recommended him as a servant, and perceiving that he had recovered his health and strength, seized him in the street, pulled him down from the chariot, and caused him to be sent to prison as a run-away slave. Mr. Sharp waited immediately upon the lord-mayor, who caused the master and the poor negro, to be summoned before him. That upright and well-informed magistrate decided that the master had no property in the person of the negro in this country; and that, consequently, as there was no other charge against him, he was perfectly free, and at liberty to depart wherever he pleased. The master instantly, however, seized the unfortunate black by the collar in the presence of Mr. Sharp and the lord-mayor, and insisted on his right to keep him as his property. Mr. Sharp claimed the protection of the English law against the master, and, causing him to be taken into immediate custody, exhibited articles of the peace against him for an assault and battery. The lord-mayor took cognizance of the charge, and the master was committed and compelled to find bail for his appearance at the sessions to take his trial for the

offence. Thus the great question of slavery, which involved the honor of England as well as the fate of thousands, was brought fairly before an English court of justice. A *certiorari* was obtained to remove the cause into the court of King's Bench, whence it was submitted to the twelve judges, who unanimously concurred in opinion, that the master had acted criminally, and thereby emancipated for ever the race of blacks from a state of slavery while they remained on British ground!

Having succeeded so well in the first instance, his mind was naturally led on to farther endeavours to benefit the condition of oppressed Africans. He observed many of these people begging about the streets of London, and conceived the idea of sending them back to their native country, for the double purpose of ameliorating their own condition, and, at the same time, introducing the seeds of civilization into Africa. These people he collected together to a very considerable number, and, at his sole expense, sent them over to Africa, where they formed a colony, and built themselves a town, which, in compliment to their benefactor, they named *Granville*. It is situated on the river Sierra Leone, not far from the newly-established settlement of *Free Town*.

In the discussion of the important question concerning the legality of press-warrants, Mr. Sharp displayed the same energy as he had done in the case of Somerset. A freeman of London, of the name

name of Mellichip, had been impressed into the service of the navy. Mr. Sharp applied to Mr. Alderman Bull, then lord-mayor, for an order for his discharge, which that magistrate, ever watchful over the liberties of the people, and incorruptibly pure in the administration of public justice, instantly granted. The commanding-officer of the press-gang had previously removed Mellichip to the Nore, in order to place him beyond the limits of the city jurisdiction. Mr. Sharp then caused the Court of King's Bench to be immediately moved for a writ of Habeas Corpus to bring the body of Mellichip into court, which being of course complied with, Mr. Sharp insisted, that, there being no charge against him for a breach of the laws, but being detained under the pretended authority of an impress-warrant, the court, as guardians of the liberty of the subject, was bound to discharge him. Lord Mansfield felt himself compelled to acquiesce in the constitutional justice of this demand, and ordered Mellichip to be set at liberty.

It was to the active humanity and patriotism of Mr. Sharp, that the Society for abolishing the Slave-Trade owes its origin. This society has since extended itself in several countries in Europe and through all the states in America; and, though its exertions have not yet been attended with complete and wished-for success, it has brought about several very important regulations of this horrible traffic, and has considerably ameliorated the condition

dition of the unhappy victims. Of this excellent society, Mr. Sharp has been the president ever since its first institution.

In his political principles, he is the ardent and zealous friend of liberty, and neglects no opportunity of defending its principles or asserting the neglected rights of the people. He has ever been the warm advocate for a parliamentary reform, and has recommended a plan to the public founded on the earliest principles and practice of the British constitution. He desires to restore the ancient tithings by which the whole country was formerly incorporated into societies of ten men each, who were joint security for the legal and peaceable demeanor of each other, and who elected, annually, from amongst themselves, a conservator of the peace, called the tithing-man. Ten of these societies he would unite into a larger body, denominated, agreeably to ancient practice, the Hundred, who should elect annually their constable; and ten of these bodies again to form the largest assembly of the Thousand, who should annually elect, upon the original principles of the British constitution, their elderman or magistrate. All trivial causes and disputes to be settled once a month by a jury of twelve men, in the Hundred court, before the constable; and all causes of a superior nature, and appeals from the Hundred, to be decided in the court of the Thousand, before the elderman and a jury of their peers. The whole body of the people to form, in this manner, the national

national militia; each Thousand to constitute a regiment, the elderman or magistrate to be their colonel; and each Hundred to constitute a company, the constable of each, for the time being, to be their captain. So many of the thousands to be summoned once in every year, by their magistrate, as would have a right to choose a five-hundred and fifty-eighth part of the representative legislature, and vote in their respective hundreds before the constable, without expense to the candidate or loss of time to the voter.

Mr. Sharp has shewn that the division of this kingdom into *tithings* and *hundreds* was instituted at first by the virtuous and patriotic King Alfred. He has likewise demonstrated, in his treatise on this subject, that such an institution is thoroughly consistent with the most perfect state of liberty that man is capable of enjoying, and yet competent, nevertheless, to answer all the necessary purposes of mutual defence, the due execution of just and equal laws, and the sure maintenance of the public peace. Neither does this system of government want either the prescription of antiquity or the test of experience to recommend it to our notice. It reduced to order the Israelitish armies in the wilderness, and diffused comparative happiness through this kingdom, from the days of its royal institutor to the Norman conquest.

The episcopal church in America was founded upon a system recommended by Mr. Sharp, and he had the honour of introducing their first bishops for

for consecration to the present Archbishop of Canterbury. America has, however, no established religion. The constitution of that country can neither establish nor prohibit any mode of worship which any individual may think proper to adopt.

In the unfortunate war which ended in the separation of America from Great Britain, the virtue and patriotism of this gentleman suggested to the Congress the idea of having recourse to him, as a means of bringing about a reconciliation between the two countries. Two commissioners were accordingly dispatched to Paris, for the purpose of transmitting to Mr. Sharp, in London, proposals for the British government.—Mr. Sharp delivered the propositions to Lord George Germain, who was then the American minister; and, the terms not being acceded to by the English ministry, the commissioners returned, and America was declared independent on the 4th day of July, in consequence of this refusal.

The wide scale on which Mr. Sharp has acted, and the various interests his schemes have embraced, certainly mark him out as no common character; and, though his writings have been ineffectual to produce a recurrence to our first constitutional principles, though his colony settled in Africa may not have succeeded, and press-warrants still disgrace the annals of our tolerative jurisprudence, yet the maxims he has inculcated, and the steady perseverance he has evinced, through the course of a long

a long life, in the cause of liberty, will not be without their effect. Good actions and sentiments are never totally lost.

Mr. Sharp was designed for the law, but never practised. He was afterwards in the Ordnance-Office; but, having a genteel competency, and disapproving of the American war, he gave up his place, and took chambers in the Temple, where he has resided many years. Free from every domestic incumbrance, he has there applied his mind to the pursuit of general knowledge. He is a good linguist, both ancient and modern, is well-read in divinity, extensively acquainted with law, an enlightened politician, and a great amateur of music. Every Sunday night he devotes to the harp, of which he is extremely fond. This, however, is meant for a devotional exercise, since the Psalms of David, sung in Hebrew by himself, are the constant accompaniments of his instrument. On these occasions, owing to his venerable appearance, united to his vivacious manner, he presents to his auditors the most lively appearance of bardic enthusaism. A perfect orthodox Christian in his belief, he has too much sense to fall into those narrow bigoted sentiments, which disgrace the rigid profession of many otherwise excellent characters; he therefore relaxes sometimes into innocent gaiety, and is seen amusing himself at a convivial meeting, held at a tavern in Fleet-Street, once every week, for the purpose of singing old English madrigals. His voice is good, and his judgement and execution

execution considerable. This partiality for music, also, makes him a constant attendant at the cathedral-service of Saint Paul's, the organ of which place, and chants, he thinks excellent.

Mr. Sharp's literary labours have been principally directed to theology, politics, and juridical economy. In his Dissertation on the Prophecies, he differs from Dr. Williams and Bishop Newton in many important particulars. In another tract he has become the defender of the doctrines of Original Sin, the existence and operations of the Devil, and the Athanasian mystery of the Trinity. He has also added his quota of endeavour to abolish the Gothic practice of duelling. In the treatise alluded to, he has proved that the decision of private quarrels by private combat is contrary to law; and, when one of the parties falls, that the survivor is guilty of wilful murder; and in this conclusion, few thinking men will differ from him.—His work entitled "Legal Means of Political Reformation," and his "View of the State of Government under the System of Frankpledge," are monuments of patriotism, which will ever rank him among the Hampdens and Sidneys of this country.

Mr. Sharp possesses a very extensive library, where a theologian, a lawyer, a classic, a politician, an antiquary, or an Orientalist, might find ample amusement, suited to their different tastes. His collection of Bibles is esteemed the best in the kingdom.

Mr.

Mr. Sharp, though now between seventy and ghty, like Cato, pursues his studies with all the dour of youth. Within these last four years he as made himself a tolerable proficient in Arabic. ut it must be remembered, that age to him is no urden,—that he has lived a temperate and regular fe, and that Reason has always maintained her su- remacy over his passions: his declining age, there- ore, like the evening of a fine summer's day, is alm and clear.

To judge from appearances, Mr. Sharp bids fair o arrive to a very advanced age. His form is the nedium between the thin and the athletic, his sta- ure of the middle size, his countenance clear, his lisposition cheerful, his gait upright, his nerves teady, and his actions, though thus considerably dvanced in years, possess all the sprightliness of outh.

The posthumous biographer of this excellent nan will be able to do complete justice to his irtues. His name and actions will adorn the Bri- ish Plutarch, for the imitation of the old: and his irtues will necessarily be emblazoned in the Bri- ish Nepos,* as a model for the instruction of the oung. He will be ranked with our Howards and

* Dr. Mevor, of Woodstock, has lately published an excellent chool-book, under the title of the British Nepos, which com- rizes the lives of all the most illustrious Britons, from Alfred to loward, and which is recommended to general adoption by the bvious truth, that *example is more seductive and powerful than recept.*

our

our Hanways, as one of the most worthy of his countrymen. Here let us, however, consider, that we have perhaps already said more than will be grateful to the eye of modest merit; we shall only hope, that our deserved praise, and the general esteem of all his contemporaries, will occasion this good man to continue his virtuous course, till he shall meet with the future and everlasting reward which his religion has taught him to believe in and expect.

O.

THE RIGHT HON. THOMAS PELHAM

IS eldest son of Lord Pelham, who succeeded to that title upon the death of Thomas Holles Pelham, Duke of Newcastle and Marquis of Clare, to whom he was the next in succession in the male line. The Earl of Lincoln, who succeeded to the title of Duke of Newcastle, being the son of his sister, and married also to his neice, the daughter of the late Right Hon. Henry Pelham, prime minister in the reign of George the Second, to whom, and to his heirs male, the title of Duke was limited by patent bearing date the 13th of November, 1756, as was the Barony of Pelham to the present Lord, by another patent of the present King granted the 4th of May, 1762.

Mr. Pelham was elected a representative for the county of Sussex at the general election in 1780; and,

and, arranging himself on the Treasury side of the House, he continued to vote on that side during the remainder of Lord North's administration till March, 1782. On the appointment of the new administration, the name of Mr. Pelham was the only person from his side of the House which displayed himself in the new arrangements. He obtained the office of surveyor-general of the Ordnance, and continued to hold it under the succeeding administration of Lord Shelburne.

This party being driven from power by the coalition in 1783, Mr. Pelham attached himself to Lord North and Mr. Fox, and was appointed secretary of Ireland under the lord-lieutenancy of the late Earl of Northington. But, the coalition being in their turn compelled to retire from office at the beginning of the year 1784, Mr. Pelham was dismissed, and he in consequence became a decisive and active opponent of all the measures of the present administration. He continued to pursue this line of political conduct till the defection of the Duke of Portland and his connexions had reduced the numbers of the Opposition in the two Houses of Parliament so considerably, as to give no farther alarm to the Minister, nor to afford any hope of future preferment or emolument to those who adhered to the principles of the Opposition. In this situation Mr. Pelham once more changed his party, and was converted to the interest of the present administration. He was, thereupon, restored to his former post of Irish se-

cretary, and he continued to hold that office during the government of Earl Camden.

We cannot consider these instances of tergiversation as reflecting great lustre on an eminent political character; on the contrary, we lament that the fashion of the times at all authorizes such dereliction from public principle, and we are forced to admit, with Sir William Draper in his reply to Junius, that the "principles of the most exalted characters hang too loosely about them."

Mr. Pelham is amiable in private life, his manners and address are conciliating, and, as a magistrate, he is impartial and highly respectable. He has contributed greatly to the introduction of the improved system of agriculture into the county of Sussex, and is much esteemed in his neighbourhood and in the militia of that county, of which he is lieutenant-colonel, for his pleasing and friendly qualities. His personal influence procures the return of four members to parliament; one for the town of Lewes, two for the borough of Seaford, and himself for the county of Sussex.

O.

THE DUKE OF GRAFTON.

THIS distinguished veteran, in the field of politics, still attracts the attention of his contemporaries, by the great authority of his name, by his late virtuous secession from public business, and

by

by his patronage of learning and learned men. In the progress of an active life, he has ably filled the first offices in the state; has conscientiously done his duty; whenever the measures of the respective administrations differed from his own notions of rectitude; and, at the present period, when he finds that his warnings and his advice are of no service to his country, he wholly retires from public view, contented with the character he has so well earned of an enlightened statesman and genuine patriot.

His Grace was born on the 28th of September, 1736, and succeeded to the title of his grandfather before he became of age, in the year 1757. The late King appointed him lord-lieutenant of the county of Sussex; and, as an admirer of the great William Pitt, he became a patriot of very promising expectations. He in fact so closely united himself with the party of that great man, that, under the subsequent administration of Lord Bute, he was deprived of his lord-lieutenancy.

The outset of his political life was uniformly distinguished by an opposition to the court faction, and by his zeal for the liberties, glory, and constitution of his country. He was of the number of those who warmly opposed, with a sort of prescience of its consequences, the American Stamp-Act, which was passed in 1762; and he particularly distinguished himself by his censures of the terms of the peace, and of all the measures of the Bute and Grenville administrations.

Such conduct strongly recommended the Duke to the confidence of the popular party; and, in the Rockingham administration, which succeeded that of the Grenville, he obtained the appointment of secretary of state to the foreign department. To the honour of his Grace and his collegues, a wiser and more liberal system was pursued, the obnoxious Stamp-Act was repealed, and a spirit of equity and moderation characterized every measure of the new administration.

A division of sentiments having been effected among the leading men, by the intrigues of that secret faction, whose influence has done so much mischief, his Grace resigned on the 22d of May, 1766, because he would not act unless Lord Chatham were one of the ministry. A new administration was in consequence formed in the month of August, consisting wholly of the friends of Lord Chatham, and the Duke of Grafton had the honour to be placed at the head of the Treasury. This patriotic party was speedily undermined, as the preceding had been, and, in little more than a year, a division and mutual jealousy having been effected, the Lords Chatham, Shelburne, and Northington, resigned.

This was the most critical and interesting epoch of the life of the Duke of Grafton.

He and Earl Camden retained their places after their patriotic friends had resigned, and thus exposed themselves to the suspicion of the patriots, and to the invectives of the immortal pen of Junius.

This

This party-writer, although so eloquent, and whose political style will long remain a model, will not, however, be received as an authority by any sober historian. No person at this day estimates the character of the Duke of Grafton from the twelve Philippics, addressed to him by Junius. To a certain degree, his Grace undoubtedly committed himself. He continued to act with men whose principles he has ever been supposed to disavow, and, by the countenance of his name, gave a colour to measures which might not without that sanction have been carried into execution. It is a fact, which cannot be wholly palliated, that his Grace held a responsible situation in a Tory ministry, during the foreboding years, from 1767 to 1775.

There is, however, strong reason to believe, that his Grace was for a long time in a minority in the cabinet. His whole life belies the supposition, that he approved of the principle of taxing the colonies, and of the other unconstitutional doctrines which were acted upon during this period. However, on the 10th of November, 1775, he resigned his office of Lord Privy-Seal; and this resignation, united to his subsequent opposition to the violent measures of administration, furnished demonstrative proof in favour of his political consistency. It is understood, that his Grace resigned as soon as he discovered the mad project in the cabinet, of conquering America, and of introducing a system of taxation by force of arms.

His Grace was afterwards found in the patriotic lists of Opposition, during the whole of the American war. And when, in 1782, the close union of the Rockingham and Shelburne parties effected the overthrow of Lord North, his Grace was restored to his former office of Lord Privy-Seal. This situation he held till April, 1783, when he and his friends were compelled to give way to the preponderating influence of the infamous coalition.

Since that period, his Grace has held no ostensible situation under the government, but he has never omitted, in his seat in parliament, to offer his opinions on every important occasion. He has uniformly disapproved of the principle of the present war, and is of the number of those independent persons, who consider it as pregnant with mischief to the constitution and prosperity of the British empire. His last eloquent and most pathetic speech drew tears from the writer of this article. It was an awful moment to hear such illustrious and independent patriots as the Dukes of Grafton and Bedford, the Marquis of Lansdown, and the Earls of Moira, Suffolk, and Guilford, declare successively their design to secede from their senatorial duties, which had become so useless and mischievous. The Duke of Grafton concluded one of the most interesting speeches ever heard in a public assembly, with the following declaration, "*I shall retire, my Lords, to my country-seat, to instruct my children; and await, in awful silence*

silence, the eventful period which I see approaching!"

The reader has thus rapidly followed the political career of the Duke of Grafton. He will now find it no less interesting to view him in his domestic life, as a private and opulent nobleman.

His Grace has been twice married. From his first dutchess, who was the daughter of Lord Ravensworth, he was divorced in March, 1769. He was married to his present dutchess in the May of the same year. By his two marriages he has had seventeen children, four by the first, and thirteen by the last; fifteen of whom, seven sons and eight amiable daughters, are still living.* With such an interesting family, who, that has children, will doubt, that the Duke of Grafton is a sincere patriot, and real friend to the interests of his country. What better pledge of integrity can the public expect, than that its first servants should possess minds fraught with intelligence, and hearts which beat with the sensibility of parents?†

* His eldest son, the Earl of Euston, was born in the year 1760, and has represented the University of Cambridge in four successive parliaments; he is, moreover, lord-lieutenant of the county of Suffolk, colonel of one of its regiments of militia, and ranger of St. James's and Hyde Parks.

† The man who "*hath not music in his soul*," that is to say, whose soul is not alive to the sympathies of filial and paternal love, and to the tender affections of private life, ought seldom to be trusted by a sovereign or his people.

His Grace has been Chancellor of the University of Cambridge upwards of thirty years, and, by his influence and patronage, is conceived to have been the means of introducing the liberal and active spirit, which has peculiarly distinguished that University. Those friends of civil and religious liberty, who are its members, have always expressed their high sense of his Grace's liberal sentiments, while his conduct has been so moderate, as on no occasion to give offence, even to the partizans of passive obedience. In testimony of the flattering opinion entertained of his Graces's principles, we shall quote the elegant *Ode to Liberty*, written by that amiable poet, Mr. GEORGE DYER, late of Emanuel:

"May FITZROY, too, the gen'rous transport share;
And rais'd by love of thee, and love of truth,
View Liberty's long lustre mild and clear,
Till its full orb illume Britannia's youth,
And I, the meanest of the tuneful throng,
On Cam's fair banks, will chant to thee the grateful song."

His generous patronage of Mr. GRAY ought not to be forgotten. Mr. G. was known as an excellent poet and man of letters, but was wholly unprovided for, when, without any solicitation, the Duke, as chancellor, advanced him to the Professorship of Modern History, worth upwards of 300*l.* per annum. Mr. G. deeply impressed with a sense of his obligation, volunteered the following lines into

o the Ode performed on the occasion of the in-
llation of the Duke as chancellor, on the 1st of
ly, 1769.

But hark! the portals sound, and pacing forth
With solemn steps and slow,
High potentates, and dames of royal birth,
And mitred fathers, in long order go:
Great Edward, with the lilies on his brow
From haughty Gallia torn,
And sad Chatillon, on her bridal morn
That wept her bleeding love, and princely Clare,
And Anjou's heroine, and the paler Rose,
The rival of her crown, and of her woes,
And either Henry there,
The murder'd Saint, and the majestic Lord,
That broke the bonds of Rome:
(Their tears, their little triumphs o'er,
Their human passions now no more,
Save Charity, that glows beyond the tomb!)
All that on Granta's fruitful plain
Rich streams of regal bounty pour'd,
And bade these awful fanes and turrets rise,
To hail their FITZROY's festal morning come;
And thus they speak in soft accord
The liquid language of the skies.

"What is Grandeur, what is Pow'r?
Heavier toil, superior pain,
What the bright reward we gain?
The grateful mem'ry of the good.
Sweet is the breath of vernal show'r,
The bee's collected treasures sweet,
Sweet music's melting fall, but sweeter yet
The still small voice of Gratitude."

Foremost

Foremost and leaning from her golden cloud
The venerable Marg'ret see!
"Welcome, my noble Son, (she cries aloud,)
To this, thy kindred train, and me:
Pleas'd in thy lineaments we trace
A Tudor's* fire, a Beaufort's grace.
Thy lib'ral heart, thy judging eye,
The flower unheeded shall descry,
And bid it round heav'n's altars shed
The fragrance of its blushing head:
Shall raise from earth the latent gem
To glitter on the diadem.

Lo! Granta waits to lead her blooming band,
Not obvious, not obtrusive, she
No vulgar praise, no venal incense flings;
Nor dares with courtly tongue refin'd
Profane thy inborn royalty of mind:
She reveres herself and thee.
With modest pride to grace thy youthful brow
The laureate wreath, that Cecil wore, she brings,
And to thy just, thy gentle hand
Submits the fasces of her sway,
While Spirits blest above and Men below
Join with glad voice the loud symphonious lay."

Mr. Gray will not be suspected of a disposition to flatter, by those who knew the independence of his mind.

The Duke for many years past has been occupied in collecting books, with more assiduity than almost any nobleman of his time. His library is

* The Countess was a Beaufort, and married to a Tudor: hence the application of this line to the DUKE of GRAFTON, who claims descent from both these families.

copious,

copious, splendid, and well chosen; and is particularly valuable for many incomparable copies of the scarcest and most esteemed classic authors in their earliest editions, which the liberality of their owner renders accessible to all students who wish to consult and use them, in the true spirit of one, who loves, and promotes, and patronizes, literature.* We will venture to assert, without fear of contradiction, or any imputation of exaggeration and servility, that none of the Duke's contemporaries, under similar circumstances of situation, with a very numerous and expensive family, can boast such instances of spontaneous generosity and disinterested service to learned men, whether by relieving their embarassments, or encouraging their works.

The Duke is the reputed author of a well-written and judicious pamphlet, published about ten years ago, on the subject of the Church-Liturgy and Subscriptions, which was favourably

* Among numerous instances, a recent one may be instanced, relative to the new edition of GRIESBACH's New Testament.—His Grace offered to print a new edition in England, at his own expense; but, as Griesbach had been employed for many years in the improvement of his work, it was judged more expedient, that it should be re-printed on the continent, under the author's own inspection, upon paper sent from England by the Duke. This was done, and his Grace has since distributed a great number of copies. Others he has put on sale at a low charge, for the general convenience of the public.

received

received by the public, and has passed through several editions.*

In religion, he is understood to be friendly to Socinian or Unitarian doctrines, and he frequently attends the Unitarian chapel, in Essex-Street, of which Dr. DISNEY, since the resignation of Mr. LINDSEY, is become the officiating pastor. His Grace is said to have printed, for private circulation, a very interesting tract, containing his own private sentiments in matters of religion.

In person, the Duke of Grafton is of the middle size, but slender, with a countenance shrewd and intelligent, and thought to resemble that of his royal progenitors. His manners are highly agreeable and fascinating; his dress is remarkable for great plainness and neatness. As a parliamentary orator, he is very animated, and speaks with great dignity and interest; his style is strong and classical, and he always engages the respectful attention of his auditors. He has been admitted, even by his enemies, to be a nobleman of great talents and learning. Lord Chatham evinced his high opinion of him, by placing him at the head of his own administration; and Mr. Wilkes, and even Junius, have acknowledged, that he possesses the most elevated powers of mind.

His Grace is ranger of Whittlebury-Forest, his Majesty's game-keeper at Newmarket, receiver-

* Entitled, "Hints submitted to the Serious Attention of the Clergy, Nobility, and Gentry, newly associated."

general

general of the profits of the seals in the King's Bench and Common Pleas, and of the prizage on wines, chancellor of the University of Cambridge, high-steward of Dartmouth, recorder of Thetford and Coventry, a governor of the Charter-House, and a knight of the garter. May he long live the blessing of his family, and the ornament and hope of his country!

A. D.

MR. SECRETARY COOKE.

NOTWITHSTANDING the vehement opposition made by the people of Ireland to a closer union with Great Britain, yet that country almost ever has been, and it is likely ever will be, governed, even internally, by the counsels and advice of Englishmen.

Among those who have for some years past guided the affairs of Ireland, Mr. Cooke is not the least conspicuous. He is the son of the late Dr. Cooke, of King's College, Cambridge, who died two years since at Bath, a man distinguished for his high literary attainments.

Mr. Cooke, at an early age, was placed upon the King's foundation at Eton-School, where he received a classical education, and, when qualified, was sent to King's College, Cambridge, of which college his father was then provost.

In

In the year 1777, the late Earl of Buckinghamshire was appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland, and the present Sir Richard Heron, who was then an eminent conveyancer, was appointed chief secretary to that nobleman's administration.

Sir Richard was not long in this situation, before he found that the duties of his office made it necessary for him to call in the assistance of some confidential person, who, to use his own phrase at the time, would be "a faithful drudge," in the character of a confidential clerk. Accordingly, Sir Richard applied to some of his friends, then at Dublin-Castle, to recommend him some young man of this description, who might be found at either of the English universities, possessing sufficient talents, and whose circumstances in life would render such a situation an object worthy his attention and acceptance.

By these friends, Mr. Cooke was recommended to Sir Richard. Upon being applied to, he gladly embraced the situation, and was appointed chief clerk, or, to use the more palatable expression, *private secretary* to the chief secretary, at a salary of 200 *l.* per annum.

Mr. Cooke continued for some time in this situation, in addition to which, he farther made himself useful to government, by supporting administration in many of their periodical publications, and by performing the duties of a certain non-descript office, which, though it wants a name, is nevertheless

vertheless well known in the system of Irish administration:—its business was to attend the sittings of the House of Commons, and be in readiness, at the direction of the Minister of the day, to communicate between him and his friends, to acquaint them, in cases where their services might be wanted, of the urgency that called them, and, in a word, to assist ministerially in executing one part of the office of the chief secretary. It was at a time, when the minority of the Irish House of Commons was much more numerous and respectable than it has been of later years, and, of course, much more to be dreaded by the Minister, that Mr. Cooke was thus employed, to hang upon their rear, and watch their motions. The duty, in many cases, was arduous and important: Mr. C. discharged it to the full satisfaction of his employers, and was rewarded, first, by a place of 200*l.* per annum in the Dublin Custom-House, and, after a due probation, by the lucrative office of chief clerk to the House of Commons. This office was conferred on Mr. C. during the administration of the Duke of Rutland.

The unpopularity which attached to his Grace, in the early part of his administration, occasioned by the introduction of the *Irish Propositions*; the *doctrine of attachments* against the High Sheriffs of cities and counties, for calling aggregate meetings of the freemen and freeholders, &c. &c. produced in the daily and other periodical prints, at that time, animadversions, and (some indeed scandalous) libels, not only against the *public measures*, but

but the *private conduct*, of that nobleman. These circumstances afforded Mr. Cooke a favourable opportunity, of rendering himself not only extremely useful, but agreeable, to government, by his vindications of the administration, through the medium of pamphlets and newspapers; and for these as well as his other services, it was, that Mr. Cooke was appointed clerk of the Irish House of Commons; an office, the duty of which requires little more than attendance and regularity, and is rewarded by salary and emoluments, which amount, it is said, to 1400*l.* or 1500*l.* per annum. This office was settled on him for life, *i. e.* he had the power of nomination, when he should himself be inclined to retire.

Mr. Cooke continued in this situation until the important period of the Regency, which occurred during the administration of the present Marquis of Buckingham, in 1789, when Mr. Charles Francis Sheridan, (who then held the employment of secretary for the military department in Ireland,) voting in parliament for declaring the Prince of Wales unrestricted Regent of Ireland, was dismissed from office, and Mr. Cooke appointed to succeed him: he was, at the same time, nominated to a seat in the House of Commons (of which he was then clerk) for one of the government boroughs.

Already he had given several proofs of his talents, both in a political and a literary way; and it was supposed, that those talents could be turned to better

better use, in the capacity of a senator, than in the confined character of a noter of minutes. It was thought, that a man, possessing considerable learning, much strong sense, and political information, would have been a respectable, if not a brilliant, parliamentary partizan. In this, at least, however, he disappointed his patrons; for, on his first essay in debate, it was found, that he wanted voice, and temper, and management, for a public speaker. His voice was so low and guttural as to be scarcely audible, his temper hot and irascible, and his management of himself and his argument so incautious as to leave both open to ridicule and retort. There were other reasons which co-operated to prevent Mr. Cooke from being a frequent or a formidable supporter of his party. The situations he had successively filled, from his commencement in public life, were known: in some of them, he had been so recently employed, that, whenever he spoke, the House viewed him rather in his former characters, than in that of a brother-member;—hence his arguments were frequently answered by the ridicule, the contempt, or invective, of Opposition, against the agents of corruption, the whippers-in of a party, or the government of clerks. It was neither for the honour of Mr. C. nor for the benefit of his friends, that he should too frequently give occasion to the malice of the Oppositionists, to expatiate upon these topics, even though he possessed more of the qualities of a parliamentary speaker than he appeared to do; he, therefore, prudently declined being prominent in debate, and, for

the future, limited his senatorial exertions to the giving of a silent vote, or to the short explanation of a public account or a parliamentary estimate. But, if Mr. Cooke be not an eloquent speaker, he is yet thought to be a very useful member of parliament; for, though he cannot convince or lead the House by his reasoning or by his eloquence in a public harangue, he is, nevertheless, known to be most persuasive in private colloquy with individual members, nor is there, perhaps, among the friends of the Minister in the Irish House of Commons, any man better skilled in persuading a majority to keep together, in estimating the probable event of a debate, or in guarding against the wicked efficacy of patriotic declamation.

Mr. Cooke continued secretary, for the military department in Ireland, from the year 1789 until the administration of Earl Fitzwilliam, in 1795, who displaced him, and appointed Colonel John Doyle his successor. Lord Fitzwilliam, also, dismissed Sackville Hamilton, Esq. from the office of secretary for the civil department, and appointed Lodge Morres, Esq. his successor.

A very few years since, Mr. Cooke married a young lady, daughter of Colonel Ham. Gorges, with whom he got a considerable fortune. The general belief is, however, that he does not enjoy much connubial happiness in this connexion; for, whether it be that Mr. Cooke disliked in his lady those fashionable levities which are equally prevalent in the Irish as in the British metropolis, or that there were other reasons of a more private nature

nature for disagreement, it is certain that they now live in a state of voluntary separation.

Lord Camden having succeeded Lord Fitzwilliam in the government of Ireland, he immediately dismissed both Colonel Doyle and Mr. Morres, and appointed Mr. Cooke to the office of secretary to the civil department, in the room of Mr. Morres, which situation he (Mr. Cooke) holds at this moment.

Previously to the late unhappy rebellion, Mr. Cooke was particularly distinguished by his zeal and his activity, in developing the conspiracy and in procuring the arrest of the principal conspirators; nor is he less zealous and active at present in counteracting the machinations of sedition; for, Mr. C. seems to believe, that sedition is yet hatching revolutionary projects. But, it is not these laudable exertions of his, in restoring or preserving the peace of the country, that have of late made him so conspicuous; it was his publication of his arguments, for and against an union, which was designed as the precursor of that measure, and expected, no doubt, to smooth the way for it.—This work neither answered the hopes which were formed of it, nor corresponded with the literary reputation of its author. Instead of preparing the public mind for the favourable reception of that measure, it contained a collection of topics so injudicious, as to raise a host of enemies against its favourite object; it disgusted the loyal, by attempting to prove, that the good government and the independence

of the country were incompatible, and it gave strength to the disaffected, by declaring, on authority almost official, that the evils they complained of, and which they had taken up arms under pretence of redressing, existed even more mischievously than they had stated. In a literary point of view, it was equally objectionable; for, it boasted neither ingenuity of argument nor beauty of composition.

W. Y.

MAJOR JOHN CARTWRIGHT.

THE family of Major Cartwright is of great antiquity in the county of Nottingham. By the female line, through a descent of five generations, he is sprung from the Pierrepoints:* one of his ancestors represented the borough of Retford, in the reign of Charles I.† and a younger branch of his

* Which gave him relationship by blood to the late Duke of Kingston and the present Duke of Portland.

† An ancestor of the Major's, as may be seen in Clarendon, was also comptroller of the navy, and commanded, at one time, a squadron of the King's ships; and Sir Hugh Cartwright, another of them, had been so strenuous a supporter of the royal cause, that he was obliged, on the elevation of Cromwell, to retire to Antwerp.

The Major himself is a younger brother of the gentleman who spent so many years in Labrador, and published a Journal, in three quarto volumes, of the events which there happened to him. He is also brother to the Rev. Edmund Cartwright, author of Armine and Elvira, and other poems; and who has established a high reputation

his house has represented the county of Northampton in several parliaments. There are, perhaps, some to whom these circumstances may most recommend him, but his proper merit is in himself. He is mild in his manners; of a temper warm, but governed; ardent and steady in his affections; elevated in his sentiments; daring and indefatigable; possessed of all that is essential in politeness, yet negligent of frivolous forms and fashions, with a strong sense of moral and religious obligation, as appears in all his writings.

An ardour in the pursuit of virtuous fame was the first and will, perhaps, be the last passion of his soul. This has impelled him ever to do more than his duty, but rendered him careless of those rewards which he deserved. Though he had served with the late Duke of York, Lord Howe, Sir Hugh Palliser, and Admiral Byron, every one of whom have borne testimony to his merit, the rank of lieutenant terminated his career of naval promotion. But his career of generous ambition and virtuous action began with his earliest youth, and will end only with his life.

While but a boy, he left his father's house to engage in the service of the King of Prussia, whose heroic deeds had stimulated his youthful ambition. Being overtaken by a friend, he was prevailed upon to return, and divert his mind towards the military service of his own country; and he soon after en-

putation for discoveries in mechanics, which are of the greatest utility in manufactures.

tered into the navy, under Lord Howe.* While with his Lordship and the Duke of York, the daringness of his spirit was shewn, by his leaping from a 74-gun ship into the sea, as the ship was under sail, in order to save the life of a young gentleman who had fallen overboard. And he after-

* He embarked in 1758, at the age of eighteen, and became a lieutenant in 1762. He was present, in 1758, at the capture of Cherbourg and the destruction of its naval bason; and, in 1759, was in the glorious action on the French coast, when Sir Edward Hawke defeated Conflans. Lord Howe's ship, the Magnanime, had a full share in that engagement, and concluded her part of it by a sharp contest with the French Hero, of equal force; both ships carrying 74 guns. The Hero struck to her opponent.

When Lord Howe, a few days after that action, was selected by the admiral to command a meditated attack on that part of the French fleet which escaped into the river Villaine, only one lieutenant and two midshipmen were taken by his Lordship out of his own ship, to attend him on that service. Mr. Cartwright was one of the latter; and, it will be seen, that he did not afterwards lose his Lordship's good opinion.

It was about this time, that our young seaman reformed the exercise of the great guns on ship-board; which, until curtailed by him, was as long and tiresome as the manual exercise of a soldier used to be. Slight as this circumstance appears, it may perhaps be considered as an indication of a mind early turned to *the reforming of bad systems.*

His improved and concise mode was communicated to his friend Falconer, who gives it as an article in his Marine Dictionary. Here, it may not be improper to add, that Lord Howe, ever attentive to the discipline of his ship, had all the seamen instructed in the use of small arms, and committed the charge of this instruction to Mr. Cartwright and a Mr. Cannon, whose sole employment it was, until the end in view was accomplished.

wards,

wards, while a midshipman, made a proposal to Lord Howe, to undertake the burning of some French men of war, which his Lordship was then blocking up in a harbour;* but Lord Howe thought the attempt too hazardous.

Under Sir Hugh Palliser and Admiral Byron, at Newfoundland, he distinguished himself for five years successively, by his able and upright administration of justice, in the extensive districts committed to his jurisdiction; by supplying the defects of the laws, in cases of difficulty, with judgement, address, and firmness; and in being the proposer of several reformations. He will also be remembered in that island, so long as it shall remain in English hands, as the discoverer of the country to the very centre of the island, to which he penetrated through unexplored woods and the settlements of hostile savages, with the view, amongst other generous purposes, of rendering them friends, and affording them the means of becoming Christians.†

In 1771, he was obliged to quit his ship for the recovery of his health, which had greatly suffered, and, for two or three years, had been constantly

* The river Charente, below Rochfort.

† On this occasion, he penetrated to, and discovered, a lake, which proved to be the capacious source of the river Exploits, emptying itself into a bay of the same name, on the east coast, in latitude 49° 30′. This lake, but without any name, was delineated on a chart of the island, published by Jeffries, geographer to the King, in 1775.

declining. But sickness could not repress the activity of a mind devoted to the public, nor could the allurements of society wean him from this strong attachment. He very soon wrote a free and manly pamphlet, on the Rights and Interests of the Adventurers in the Newfoundland Fishery, against the Neglects of the Legislature, and the Oppressions of Governors,* which he presented to the secretary of state. He drew up, also, a plan for a perpetual supply of English oak to the navy, for cultivating the royal forests, and other great advantages to the nation, which met with the highest approbation; and which he laid before the ministers, but without receiving even an answer to his many applications upon the subject. They stole, indeed, a part of it, which answered their own purposes, but by no means secured those benefits to the public, which were the author's object; and, with regard to the whole of the plan, the best idea that can be conveyed of it will be in the words of a friend† of the Minister, to whom it was shewn, who candidly remarked, "We are not honest enough for such plans as these."

In 1774, he could no longer suppress his feelings for the sufferings of America, and the fatal

* This little work was never printed, having been intended only as advice to, and expostulation with, the Minister, who presided over the department which had the superintendence of the fishery.

† Doctor Douglas, now bishop of Salisbury. See Letter to the Duke of Newcastle. Appendix.

consequence

consequence to his own country, which he foresaw from the arbitrary principles and rash conduct of the ministers; and he then wrote his first Treatise on Politics, a treatise, that was then neglected, as full of false prognostics and chimerical proposals. But time has shewn, that it was prophetic, and containing instructions of the soundest policy. This was followed, from time to time, by other publications, in all of which he shews a true knowledge of our constitution, an ardent love of liberty, and a contempt of private interest and personal danger, when in competition with the public good.

He was early distinguished, and decided his fitness for a seat in parliament, by his "Vindication of the Legislative Rights of the Commonalty," in which he traces, with precision, the declension of our parliament, from its ancient purity and excellence, to its present corrupt state, refutes all the arguments in favour of the rotten system, and clearly points out the means of reformation. Besides addressing this work to the public, and presenting it to the King, he used every other effort, in the power of a private person, towards setting on foot the proposed reformation, from a full conviction that nothing less could save his country.

The town of Nottingham shewed their gratitude to the author of so valuable a gift, and had the honour of being the first who wished to send him as their representative to parliament.

Prior

Prior to Mr. C.'s first voyage to Newfoundland, he commanded a cutter stationed on the coast of Dorsetshire, when, going into Plymouth for provisions and some trifling articles of refitment, he had an opportunity of witnessing a mode of making out public accounts, which may well cause such accounts to be viewed with distrust, until a radical reform shall have obtained, for the nation, stewards who will sift them to the bottom, and make examples of those who abuse the trusts reposed in them. An account of the application of the moneys remitted to the dock-yard was drawn up to be laid before *the House of Commons*, in which every ship, and other object of expense, was set forth in the first column, and other columns were appropriated to building, re-building, repairs, refitment, &c. &c.; and then came a column, shewing the total expense. Mr. C. from a natural curiosity respecting his own vessel, the *Sherbourn*, was desirous of seeing what had been the expense incurred on her; but, as he knew it could not exceed 30*l.* or 35*l.* he rather expected it would have been included in the general article of *small craft*, than to have been particularly specified in a national account, which he did not suppose would descend to such minutiæ.

In the proper column, however, he found the *Sherbourn*, when, looking forward to the column of *totals*, he saw, to his astonishment, a charge of 1200*l.* He took the earliest opportunity of personally communicating the fact to a Lord of the Admiralty,

Admiralty, who had also a seat in the House of Commons; but he never heard that the mode of stating such accounts was corrected.

On his return from Newfoundland, at the close of the year 1770, he was invited by his original commander, Lord Howe, then appointed to commence a new war with Spain, relative to Falkland's Islands, to become one of his lieutenants in the Queen, a ship of 90 guns, which invitation was gladly accepted.

The dispute with Spain, however, being adjusted, the admiral's flag being struck, and the Queen made a *guardship* at Spithead, the contrast between the dronish service which ensued, and the activity in which our lieutenant had moved for the thirteen years he had then been in the navy, was such as to be very ill relished by a mind like his; wherefore, he took an early opportunity of retiring to recruit his health; and that circumstance seems to have decided the future complexion of his life.

In this retirement from naval activity, in executing abroad the will of the state, he had leisure for contemplating the principles and policy by which the state itself regulated its conduct. The seeds of American separation were now sown; the *Stamp-Act* had been long passed and repealed; but the *Declaratory Act* having laid a new foundation for oppression, the folly and injustice of the government soon gave fresh cause of discontent to the colonies. Attending to the progress of the dispute, Mr. Cartwright formed his

his opinions; and, when matters ripened into a dangerous crisis, feeling with warmth the interests of truth and justice, and anxious for the honour and prosperity of his country, he became in regular form an author.

His first essays were a series of letters in the spring of 1774, published in a newspaper: in January, 1775, he made additions, and then published the whole as a pamphlet, entitled, "*American Independence, the Interest and Glory of Great Britain.*" Foreseeing the issue of the tyrannical conduct of his country, unless timely corrected, as well as the sound policy of guarding against future disputes, he proposed to declare America independent of *parliament*, and *then* to form with her the closest connexion, founded on their natural relationship and common interest; his Majesty still remaining king of each state, the states to be separate, and Great Britain to be the umpire of their disputes, the guarantee of their separate independence one of another, and the guardian of the whole; receiving, at the same time, from each, such a specified monopoly of certain branches of her trade, or such an annual sum of money, as should be agreed on, for naval protection of her territory and her commerce.

It is remarkable, that, in June of the same year, a committee of the American Congress drew up a paper, in which it is said, "And we hereby declare, that, on a reconciliation with Britain, we shall not only continue to grant *aids in time*

time of war, as aforesaid, but whenever she shall think fit to abolish her monopoly, and give us the same privileges of trade as Scotland received at the union, and allow us a free commerce with all the rest of the world; we will willingly agree (and we doubt not it will be ratified by our constituents) to give and pay into the Sinking-Fund *one hundred thousand pounds sterling per ann.* for the term of one hundred years; which, duly, faithfully, and inviolably, applied to that purpose, is demonstrably more than sufficient to extinguish *all her present national debt*, since it will not amount, at legal British interest, to more than 230,000,000 *l.*

" But, if Britain does not think fit to accept this proposition, we, in order to remove her groundless jealousies, that we aim at independence, and an abolition of the Navigation-Act, (which hath, in truth, never been our intention,) and to avoid all future disputes about the right of making that, and other acts, for regulating our commerce, do hereby declare ourselves ready and willing to enter into a *covenant with Britain*, that she shall fully possess, enjoy, and exercise, that right for a hundred years to come, the same being *bona fide* used for the common benefit."*

That counsels of a very different cast from those of Mr. Cartwright were adopted by his Majesty and his ministers, this country has had sufficient

* Franklin's Political, Miscellaneous, and Philosophical Pieces, page 363.

cause

cause to lament; nor is it uninstructive to observe, that, at the period alluded to, no one member, of the then numerous and powerful Opposition in parliament, could elevate his mind to the magnanimity of approving and recommending American independence; nay, they agreed with ministers in treating such notions as marks of disaffection; and Mr. *Burke*, afterwards, made it his boast, that, if there were one member of the House a greater champion than the rest for the supremacy of parliament, it was himself; a boast as devoid of constitutional principle, as of that wisdom which ought to distinguish a statesman!

The plan suggested by Mr. Cartwright, which has been *already observed*, was, in the *political* sense of the word, a UNION between Britain and America, under one and the same crown, but separate and independent legislatures; and, by the last of his publications, it appears, he does not approve of any other kind of union with IRELAND. President Laurens, on his release from the Tower, having been asked his opinion of Mr. Cartwright's proposal, made a reply to this effect:—he observed, that, for the peace and happiness of mankind, it was probably better the union did not take place, since it would have given the united countries a degree of strength, that would have made them formidable to the whole world.

With regard to the above-mentioned paper, drawn up in the American committee, it is well known, that it never appeared on the minutes of

f Congress, "a severe act, which arrived about hat time, having determined them not to give the um proposed in it."

In August, 1775, Mr. Cartwright received his ommission as Major of the Nottinghamshire militia, then raised for the first time since the passng of the Militia-Act, in 1757.

It was in this year, 1775, that the American sword of *resistance* first drew British blood; and that the Major published "a Letter to Edmund Burke, Esq. controverting the Principles of American Government, laid down in his Speech of April 19, 1774."

Early in the spring of the year 1776, Mr. Cartwright received a new invitation from Lord Howe, to accompany him on service. To a lieutenant on half-pay, who had "a partiality for a naval life," and who felt to his Lordship a strong attachment, from a reverence of his character as a man, an admiration of his talents and conduct as a commander, and a grateful affection to his person as his professional preceptor and the friend of his fortunes,—such an invitation could not but be most alluring. There was, in effect, included in it a tender of rank, of command, and probably of wealth; but the lieutenant had read, he had reasoned, and he had written, on the American dispute. He shed tears, but he preserved his principles;* and, although Lord Howe expressed his full

* In consequence of this refusal, to draw his sword against the cause of liberty, we find that he did really forego all those splendid

full persuasion, that he should be able, by his powers of negotiating as commissioner, to accommodate the subsisting differences, without having recourse to arms; the lieutenant seems to have formed a more solid judgement than the commissioner; and, at all events, proved he was incapable of hazarding the possibility of the dilemma he must have been in, should arms be ultimately resorted to.*

In 1777, the Major published "a Letter to the Earl of Abingdon," expostulating with his Lordship on certain constitutional points, on which he judged his Lordship to have erred. The writer of these memoirs is not in possession of that letter, but the noble Earl, he recollects, spoke of it as the controversy of a gentleman.

On the 2d of April, as the Major informs us,† he presented to the King, at his levee, "Proposals for recovering America, and saving Great Britain;" and he again urged upon his Majesty, about the end of that year, an attention to his proposal, in another paper which he then presented. The reader will not expect to hear, that the advice of one, who had vindicated American re-

did advantages, which would most evidently have attended his services, and which were actually obtained by the officer who supplied his place.

* See Letter to the Duke of *Newcastle*, p. 55.

† *Legislative Rights of the Commonalty Vindicated, p.* 249.

sistance,

sistance, obtained him a seat in the Privy-Council; although it will scarcely admit of a doubt, that, had his advice been followed, his Majesty would now have been king of all English America.

The writer, having been favoured with a copy of the above-mentioned paper, has thought it merited a place in these memoirs. It is as follows:

" May it please your Majesty,

" That a loyal subject be permitted to remind your Majesty of the proposals for recovering America, and saving Great Britain, which your Majesty was graciously pleased to receive at his hands, on the 2d day of April last.

" Experience, since that period of time, hath spoken very forcibly in support of such measures as were therein recommended; it will continue, it must continue, to speak the same language; because the principles had their foundation in nature, rectitude, and lawful policy, contrary to those of iniquity and self-contradiction, upon which a corrupt system of government hath been adhered to, and to those also, of a state-expediency, and an unwarrantable spirit of domination, upon which your servants, and even parliament, have betrayed your Majesty into an unjust and ruinous war.

" The war hath been altogether unjust, because the idea of the colonies having been subject to the authority of parliament, while, in truth, they only owed allegiance to your Majesty, was founded in error, and was, in fact, incompatible with

the British constitution; as hath long since been demonstrated in the writings of several private men, one of which number was the writer of these lines, who, certainly, would not dare to approach your Majesty with a direct denial of the just rights of parliament.

" He dares, however, to deny, and thinks it his duty to remonstrate against, any unconstitutional authority whatsoever, which, in exercising its usurped powers, in a way that, however well intended, must, according to his apprehension, inevitably cause his Sovereign's reign to be calamitous and inglorious, and threatens to involve his country in a total ruin. Humbly submitted by," &c.

17 *Dec.* 1777.

What different objects carry different men to courts! Although Lord North was extremely averse in his own private judgement to the American war, he was too good a courtier to intrude disagreeable sentiments upon his Sovereign, and too much the humble servant of his master, to lose his place for his opinions. Nay, he is said to have carried his complaisance so far, as to have been particularly sedulous in having interviews with all officers on their return from America; and in either inviting or forbidding them to appear at court, according as their opinions were favourable or unfavourable to the hope of reducing the colonies to unconditional subjection.

What is it about the supreme executive magistrate of a state, that produces such sycophancy in the

the statesmen of an empire? Can it be any thing but the *degree* of his *power?* Roman emperors, we know, had their temples and their altars, and were worshipped as very gods. Even Turkish sovereigns, who can take off heads at pleasure, have the lowest prostrations from their slavish ministers; but the situation of a limited prince of a free people, if all were sound, ought not to inspire his counsellors with a servility that is treachery to the people.

Early in the spring of the same year, Major C. had published, "Take your Choice, &c." and, again in July, a second edition, under the title of "The Legislative Rights of the Commonalty Vindicated; or, Take your Choice, &c.;" the work which the writer of the "*Sketch*" wished were in the hands of every Englishman.

In 1778, the militia being then embodied, the Major was with his regiment at Hull, where it seems that his assiduities drew from the general of the district, Earl Percy, now Duke of Northumberland, an honourable mark of approbation.* It was, while forming the corps at this place, that the Major, by desire of the colonel, drew up standing orders and instructions, which were printed of a pocket-size, and distributed to all the commissioned and non-commissioned officers. Some extracts from this performance will give a just idea

* *Letter to the Duke of Newcastle, p.* 35.

of this gentleman's notions of military duty. In the section of Instructions to the Officers, it is said,

"At every proper and convenient opportunity, an officer should give due praise to those that keep themselves clean, and are careful to make a soldier-like appearance, and to do their duty with cheerfulness; using his best endeavours to inspire them with that pride in doing well, which makes the soldier's duty a pleasure; as well as with that no less desirable pride in their corps, which interests every soldier in the credit and honour of his regiment. These effects are only to be brought about by an exact discipline, regulated by justice, and tempered with humanity, respect, and politeness, so that the gentleman and the peasant, the colonel and the private centinel, may truly be *brother* soldiers. Love and respect, mixed with awe, are the sentiments in the minds of the soldiers towards their officers, that unite their interests and their wishes; and, without this union, no regimental pride can take place, no regimental reputation be acquired. When moved to displeasure, an officer is particularly to avoid all oaths, or ungentleman like or insulting expressions, to those who misbehave; but to reprimand them in such terms, as shew he feels for the disgrace they bring upon themselves, and is concerned, that they oblige him to resort to the harsh powers of his superior station; and so, in short, as to excite *shame* and *sorrow*, but not *anger*, in the breasts of the offenders; by which means he will preserve the dignity of the officer, and his severities will produce their due effect; and, finally, he is both by example and authority to quicken the men's attention to every word of command, and to inculcate, above all things, the great duty of STEADINESS.

"Further upon the parade, or in the field, an officer will more effectually recall the attention and steadiness of a forgetful soldier, by a quick and reprimanding eye, or a silent token of observation, than by vociferation or abuse; for, the latter disgust and provoke more than they awe; besides, that they are in themselves breaches of good discipline, and very disrespectful to the commanding

manding officer, and indeed to every officer present; while, on the contrary, the former is an instructive example, to the irregular soldiers, of that silent attention and anxious care for the preservation of order, which ought strictly to be observed, by every officer and soldier, to the last moment that they are upon the parade or under arms; when nothing ought to be seen but perfect uniformity, accompanied by immovable steadiness, or quick, exact, and graceful movements; and nothing heard, but the proper sound of those movements, besides the strokes of the drum, the notes of the music, and the voice of the commanding officer.

"Upon all duties of command, or of trust and confidence, such as detachments, guards, superintendence of drills, visiting of hospitals, of quarters, &c. &c. wherein officers act not immediately under the eye of a superior, it should be a most sacred point of honour with them, not to omit the smallest tittle of any such duties, nor to do them in a careless or unmilitary manner; for, though their neglects may not come to the knowledge of the commanding officer, *yet they cannot be unknown to the soldiers*, which is far worse. And, even upon duties the most trifling, they ought always to pique themselves upon setting examples to the soldiers of obedience, punctuality, and unremitting attention. No men upon earth will fail to make good soldiers under such officers; and such examples, far more than the care or labours of the training-officers, will form a regiment to order and discipline, and insure its answering the wishes of our country in the day of battle.

"These, no doubt, are motives sufficiently strong; but, to men of principle and of feeling, there is, perhaps, a motive still more urgent with them, to let their own conduct on all occasions be proper examples to their men: the private soldier *never sits in judgement* upon his officer, but the officer frequently judges, and condemns and punishes, the soldier; and the courts-martial in which he officiates are, in a free country, judicatures of a very harsh nature. How can a bacchanalian officer pass sentence upon a drunken soldier? How can the inattentive punish the negligent? or the disorderly consign to the halberts the disobedient? without being guilty of the grossest insolence, "insolence of office," without filling the minds of the sufferers with

all the indignation and hatred which tyranny ever inspires, and without subverting the best part of the foundations of discipline. To govern, through the medium of fear alone, is mean and hateful; as far as it may be necessary, it is always to be lamented; and too much pains cannot be used to substitute, in its room, the nobler principle of *emulation*."

The introduction to what respects the private soldiers runs thus:

"A balloted militia-soldier, in a free nation, is one who, by a wise and equitable law, is under an obligation to act as a military representative of his parish, and to bear arms for defence of his country. By serving faithfully in that capacity for three years, he may then remain peaceably at home the rest of his life, under the protection of those whose lot it shall then be to appear in the same honourable character.

"A militia-substitute is he, who, by his own voluntary act, takes it upon himself to bear arms as the military representative of some one parish; and, by always remembering the honourable nature of the character he assumes, he ought to pride himself in supporting it like a man and a soldier.

"The great end of arming a militia is to defend the nation against foreign attacks, without exposing it, at the same time, to that danger to liberty, which is justly to be apprehended from all other military establishments; a militia-man is, therefore, the most honourable of all soldiers.

"It was with a design to impress continually these ideas upon our minds, that the device and motto, which are worn upon the button, and borne in the colours, of the regiment were chosen. The *book* is an emblem of *law*, and the *cap*, of *liberty*; so that the device represents *liberty supported by law, and defended by the arms of the militia*. The motto in English would run thus;—"*For our laws and liberties*." Such a standard, no Englishman can quit but with his life. Of a similar nature is the design which adorns the clasps of the officers sword-belts.

"It is meant to intimate, that, so long as the militia shall have virtue and courage to defend the religious and civil rights of their country,

country, they will be blessed with the protection of Divine Providence, and enjoy the glorious reward of *freedom*.

" This, then, being the great cause in which we are engaged, every man amongst us, who wants not the generous spirit of an Englishman, will delight in his duty, and cheerfully contribute to support an exact discipline; because it is impossible to do service to our country, or credit to ourselves, without it.

" In order, therefore, to render this task as easy as possible to the willing, and to prevent the undeserving (if such should get amongst us) from injuring and mortifying their fellow-soldiers, by bringing the regiment into disgrace for want of cleanliness, or skill, knowledge, steadiness, or integrity; these explanations are given, and standing orders and instructions are established, from which none can be allowed to depart or to deviate.

" But, before the separate articles are treated of, it may not be improper to describe, in a few words, what a soldier ought to be.

" A soldier should be vigorous and brave, and particularly proud of his personal cleanliness and military appearance; he should be temperate, regular, frugal, and provident; he should be skilful and ready in all parts of his exercise and manœuvres; strict in the performance of every duty and every movement, whether observed by his officer or not; and shew the same cheerful obedience to his corporal as his colonel. When posted as a centinel, he should be vigilant, careful, and determined; his life should be less valued than the defence of his colours, or the preservation of his honour; and, as the grand secret and ornament of a soldier in the field, he should distinguish himself by constant attention, and an immoveable steadiness. To such a soldier, every worthy officer will be a friend and a father.

" The first determination of a militia-man should be, to put on a soldier's *character* with his *apparel*; and, since all his duties may be done with care and pleasure, he should scorn the thought of ever subjecting himself to compulsion or disgrace. What a difference! To misbehave, and to be treated like a base slave, tormented by the stings of remorse, shame, and fear; or, to act as becomes the defender of his country's liberty, and to enjoy the grand privilege of freedom,—that of *living without fear of any man*.

"What a good soldier should be, has been just now laid down; but let it be remembered, that, for making a good *soldier*, the best foundation is being a good *man*. A good man may always be relied upon; but, upon a bad man, there can be no dependence. When a soldier shall be a mere machine, like his firelock, then a bad man may make a good soldier, but not till then."

The introductory observations on giving instructions for a march are as follow:

"This is the time for the officer and the non-commission officer to shew his attention and regard for order and regularity;—this is the time for the soldier to give proof of his discipline.

"There is no part of duty, during a campaign, of more importance than a march. Towns are taken, armies are defeated, and provinces won, by a march! There is, perhaps, no standard of merit between regiment and regiment so much to be depended upon, as the mode in which they respectively perform a *march*. It is, therefore, incumbent upon a regiment, as it values its honour, to take all opportunities of conducting its removal, from one quarter to another, with every form and precaution of a march through an enemy's country.

"Disorder upon a march is not only grossly scandalous, but it retards and harasses the troops. It totally deprives them of that common principle of animation which they possess, while they move in one body, inspired by one soul: it is attended with easy surprise, and sure defeat.

"Order, on the contrary, commands respect, gives perfect security let an enemy appear when and where he will, occasions celerity, and eases the troops, by bringing them so much sooner to their destined place of rest and refreshment.

"When a regiment considers a march as a field-day's exercise, never letting a rank or file be undressed, moving with a measured step, pushing forward with vigour and spirit, no man stirring out of his place, except at the regular halts, calculating to a minute its arrival at its destination, and there making its entrance with the same silent attention and steadiness as is shewn before

before a reviewing general, then that regiment may be pronounced to be equal to any undertaking, and fit for any enterprise.

"From the circumstances of long stages, bad roads, foul weather, heat of the sun, &c. marches will sometimes be fatiguing: but what then! an English soldier scorns as much to be out of humour or out of spirits at a necessary fatigue, as to want courage on the appearance of danger. The sorry wretch, who can slink away from his comrades, or the dead-hearted looby, who groans and grumbles at an unavoidable fatigue, deserves to be kicked out of the ranks, and left in a ditch; and ought so to be treated, were it not for disgracing a regiment, by strewing the road with stragglers. A soldier is destined to frequent hardships; but thence arises one of the glories of his character. Let him bear them like a man, and from his own breast he will have more than a recompense. He whose spirit will not bear him like a man through the common sufferings of a soldier, let him tarry at home and rock the cradle!"

While at Hull, Major C. (as commanding officer of the regiment) received a threatening letter, in the usual style of these epistles. An imaginary *claim* of the soldiers was the alleged motive; and the Major was threatened to be "ripped open," and have his "brains blown out," &c. An officer was with the Major when he opened and read the letter; but, with his usual composure, he put it in his pocket without speaking of its contents. The extreme danger to the writers of such letters putting them proportionally on their guard, rare indeed have been the instances in which the offender has been detected; but, the penetration of Major C. leading him to probable grounds of suspicion against four soldiers, as concerned in this business, he sent them from the parade, each under charge

charge of a sergeant, to different quarters. By separate examinations, he soon came at the truth, finding their landlord was the writer of the letter, which was confirmed by a copy found upon him, as well as a seal which perfectly tallied with the wax, by which the letter had been closed. Denial and doubt being equally impossible, and the offence not bailable, the offender was committed to prison, and the Major bound to prosecute. The examination of each soldier, having commenced by reading to him the letter the Major had received, and with a promise of pardon on speaking the truth, all the soldiers were dismissed with a lecture on the escape they had had, and some wholesome advice; and, as Major C. persuaded himself the actual writer meant only to intimidate, and not to execute the threats he had used, he afterwards retained a counsel to instruct him how to fail in his proofs; which, under a humane judge, who soon perceived the object of the prosecutor, and agreed in opinion with him on the merits of the case, was not found difficult.

In 1779, the regiment marched from Hull to Portsmouth, and encamped on South-Sea Common. While there, it witnessed the retreat of the British fleet into port before the combined fleets of France and Spain. Prior to this mortifying sight, and when the enemy lay off Plymouth, while the British fleet was to the westward, great apprehensions were entertained of an attempt, on the part of

of the enemy, to enter Spithead. On this occasion, Major C. feeling the benefit of his naval knowledge, and having obtained permission of General Monkton, reconnoitred the two entrances into Spithead; and, on the spur of the occasion, sketched a plan of defence, in which were combined military and naval operations. Both the Duke of Richmond, who has bestowed much attention on the subject of fortification, and that able engineer, Colonel Debbieg, have borne their testimony to the merit of this plan, whatever it was; but we presume it was never communicated to any but those entrusted by the state with such documents.

In a letter to Major C. the Duke says, "I am much obliged to you for the very ingenious and noble plan you have sent me for the defence of Portsmouth; which, for the most part, as well as your reasoning on the subject, entirely co-incide with my ideas. Portsmouth as well as Plymouth will be best defended by," &c.*

Early in the year 1780, Major C. was the original mover of a general meeting in the county of Nottingham for a redress of grievances; in which attempt he met with the greatest discouragement from a person of very high rank whom he consulted, with prognostics of defeat from the great influence of government, and the supposed want of public spirit; but, entertaining a better opinion

* Letter to the Duke of Newcastle, p. 38, where the reasons why the plan was not then acted on will appear.

of

of the people, and persevering with his usual steadiness, he found associates amongst the gentlemen of the county. A meeting was called, and very crowdedly attended; and, with the exception only of a single negative, a petition to parliament and a committee of correspondence were voted. From this committee, at which presided the Duke of Portland, his brother Lord Edward Bentinck (then member for the county) was afterwards delegated to assist at the convention of deputies from the petitioning counties, cities, and towns, in attempting to obtain a reform in the representation of the people in parliament.*

The writer of these memoirs believes it was in the spring of the same year that Major C. after months of exertion, effected, with the assistance of Mr. Capel Lofft and Dr. John Jebb, the formation of the Society for *Constitutional Information;* and its first address to the public was of the Major's composition.

The society soon became numerous, and had amongst its members many distinguished men, viz. the Dukes of Norfolk and Richmond; the Earls of Derby, Effingham, and Selkirk; Lords Kinnaird, Daer, and Sempill; Sir Cecil Wray, M.P.

* If the writer does not forget, the Marquis of Titchfield, at a singular period, when parliamentary reformation was to be stigmatized as something nearly allied to high treason, and when the Duke had changed sides, took some pains, in a speech delivered in the House of Commons, to exculpate his noble father from the horrid imputation of having ever favoured such reformation.

Sir

Sir James Norcliffe, Sir John Carter, Sir Watkin Lewes, M.P. Alderman Sawbridge, M.P. Alderman Hayley, M.P. Alderman Crosby, Sir William Plomer, Sir Barnard Turner, M.P. Mr. Horne Tooke, Alderman Townsend, M.P. Alderman Kirkman, M.P. James Martin, Esq. M.P. William Smith, Esq. M.P. Benjamin Vaughan, Esq. M.P. Sir J. Sinclair, M.P. R.B. Sheridan, Esq. M.P. the celebrated Sir William Jones, William Plumer, Esq. M.P. R.S. Milns, Esq. M.P. William Middleton, Esq. M.P. Sir Joseph Mawbey, M.P. Jervoise C. Jervoise, Esq. M.P. Sir Watts Horton, Joshua Grigby, Esq. M.P. General Fitzpatrick, M.P. Philip Dehany, Esq. M.P. Thomas Day, Esq. author of Sandford and Merton, Dr. Kentish, Dr. Towers, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Melville, Mr. Sergeant Bond, Mr. Stratford Canning, (father of George Canning, Esq. M.P.) Dr. John Jebb, Dr. Price, Dr. Brocklesby, Mr. Capel Lofft, Mr. Jackson Barwis, Mr. Batley, the Rev. Christopher Wyvill, and above two hundred other respectable gentlemen.

Major C. was also author of the Declaration of Rights, which was published and distributed by the society. At the same time the Major was an active member of the Westminster Committee of Association, and likewise a delegate from the town of Nottingham in the aforesaid convention of deputies,* over which that virtuous patriot, Mr.

* In this appointment, the celebrated Dr. Price and the Rev. George Walker were his colleagues.

Wyvill,

Wyvill, of Yorkshire, presided with so much honour to himself.

It was likewise in the spring of the year 1780 that Major C. published "The People's Barrier against undue Influence and Corruption."*

In July of that year the aforesaid society published a "Summary" of the treatise drawn up by that excellent patriot and very learned man Mr. Capel Lofft. Prefixed to the People's Barrier, we find an Address to the Deputies of the petitioning Counties; and, in the nature of an appendix, another Address to the Freeholders of Middlesex, the Livery of London, and the Electors of Westminster.

The summer of this active year the Major spent in camp on Ranmer-Heath, in Surry; in the autumn he was a second time invited to become a candidate for the town of Nottingham, where he would probably have then succeeded in his election, had it not been for one error in judgement of the patriotic party; and in the winter he received in marriage the hand of Miss Dashwood, the eldest daughter of Samuel Dashwood, of Well, in the county of Lincoln, Esq. This gentleman represented the elder branch of his family; the two younger branches being represented by the present Sir Henry Dashwood and the late Lord Le Despencer. Mrs. Cartwright's mother was sole heir-

* The great Lord Camden spoke of this work to the late Nathaniel Smith, Esq. M. P. and others of his friends, in terms of high encomium.

ess

ess of James Bateman, Esq. of Well aforesaid, (uncle of the present Lord Bateman,) and is now a widow.

It was before the prorogation of parliament, in the summer of this year, that the Duke of Richmond brought in his bill for a reform in the representation, on the principles laid down in the Major's book, making very honourable mention of the author in his introductory speech.

The circumstance which brought his Grace and the Major acquainted is so much to the credit of both parties that it deserves to be known. In the Major's first publication on Reform, in the year 1777, he had expostulated with the then Opposition in terms of earnestness and of some freedom. He had said, that such of them, as should not pledge themselves to immediate and unceasing exertions, for effecting a complete parliamentary reformation, ought to be considered as no better than factious demagogues contending for a share in the power and plunder of their country; and he had used other expressions of a similar nature. The Duke, who before the publication of this work had not been aware of the wide breaches in the constitution it pointed out, and who was struck by the Major's reasoning with the necessity of repairing them, was yet sensibly stung with severities of language which he thought unjustly pointed at him as well as others. Under these impressions, he put the book in his pocket, introduced himself to the author, turned to the offensive passages, and

and read them with tokens of much resentment; after which, he commented with severity on the injustice and uncharitableness of appearing to suspect the integrity of men, on a point to which their attention had not before been drawn. The Major pleaded the hypothetical nature of the language alluded to, the infinite importance of the subject, and the warmth of his own feelings. Discourse ensued; and, after a conversation of two or three hours, they parted well enough pleased with each other. Although it was not without taking time to make himself thoroughly master of the subject, that the Duke received conviction of the truth of the principles laid down by Major C.: it is well known, both by his bill above-mentioned, and by his celebrated letter to Colonel Sharman, that he early adopted those principles without reserve; and that his own unanswerable arguments in their support gained over to them thousands of converts.

In the year 1781, while the convention of deputies still sat in London, appeared the Major's letters to those deputies; the object of this small piece being to convey correct notions on the nature of *representation* as the only true guide in reforming a representative body, which, through decay and corruption, had ceased to answer its constitutional ends.

The summer of this year was spent in camp at Gosport; and, about the end of the year, the Major lost his father.

In

In 1782, continuing his exertions in the cause, and apparently considering what particular bodies of Englishmen were most likely to feel the force of his reasonings, and seriously to exert themselves for relief, he published "Give us our Rights; or a Letter to the present Electors of Middlesex and the Metropolis, shewing, &c." In August, of the same year, the Major again took a leading part in promoting a county-meeting in Nottinghamshire, to petition for a reform in the representation of the people in parliament; and, as it was the request of the gentlemen, signing the requisition, that the high sheriff would consult the most convenient season for that purpose, he called a meeting for the 28th of October, when a petition was agreed on.

It was in this year also, the Major, as appears by the dates, gave a new edition of the "Declaration of Rights, without which no Englishman can be a free Man, nor the English Nation a free People;" to which he now added a forcible appeal to the understandings of his countrymen, under this title, "For the great constitutional *Right* and *Duty*, as well as the *Wisdom* and the *Necessity*, of being ARMED for defence of the *Peace*, the *Laws*, and the *Liberties*, of our Country, see the following Authorities and Arguments." This piece was not only printed and widely circulated, in a plain dress, by the Society for Constitutional Information, but was likewise published in an elegant style for being framed and glazed as an ornamental

piece of furniture; the declaration having a broad margin or border enriched with emblems and allegories, verses and quotations, expressive of the contrast between liberty and slavery, and illustrative of the doctrines of the Declaration. — A declaration, of which it was said, by the immortal SIR WILLIAM JONES, (a member of the society,) that "it ought to be written in letters of gold:" and a declaration over which the equally-immortal CHATHAM, with tokens of deep emotion, emphatically pronounced these words: "Aye, this is very right."*

Amongst the other ornaments of this copper-plate print, a bust of the Duke of Richmond is most conspicuous, and, indeed, it is made the principal figure; and there are likewise medallions of Jebb, Northcote, Lofft, Sharp, and Cartwright, as those by whom the doctrines of the Declaration had been most successfully inculcated.

With the commencement of the year 1783, Major C. engaged in agriculture; his elder brother, who had no relish for such an occupation, having then transferred to him the farm in Nottinghamshire, and all other agricultural concerns of his late father, which he had kept in his own hands for one year.

* The Declaration was put into his hands by the late General Oglethorpe, who, upon a visit to Mr. Granville Sharp, reported the fact to Major C.; but the writer of these memoirs believes it was the first edition of the Declaration that was shewn to Lord Chatham.

In

In 1784, the Major defended the virtuous cause of political reform, in which he had so long laboured, against the insidious, but witty, attack of the celebrated Soame Jennings, in a pamphlet entitled (in allusion to a well-known work of that gentleman's) " Internal Evidence; or an Inquiry how far Truth and the Christian Religion have been consulted by the Author of *Thoughts on a Parliamentary Reform.*"

In March, 1785, Major C. was once more principally instrumental in assembling the county of Nottingham in the great cause next his heart. On that occasion, he published, in a provincial newspaper and in hand-bills, an address under the title of " A Nottinghamshire Farmer to his Brother-Freeholders; or a Call to the County-Meeting to be holden at Newark, to consider the Propriety of petitioning the House of Commons to reform the present unconstitutional Representation of the People in that House, and to shorten the Duration of Parliaments."

Whether from this period the Major relaxed from his accustomed labours, in consequence of a delusive prosperity having indisposed the nation to exertion for recovering its just liberties, or whether he remained silent from a reliance on the integrity of Mr. Pitt, and a belief that that minister would embrace a convenient opportunity of fulfilling his engagements to the public on the subject of a parliamentary reformation, it is not for the writer of these memoirs to determine. He can only say,

that, between the years 1785 and 1792, he did not collect any productions of the Major's pen, nor does he recollect any thing published by him within that period; not but that a mind so active, and so devoted to the cause of reform, must probably have produced, in some form or other, both within that period and others, many things on the subject, which have not appeared with his name, or which might not be intended for publication.

In the year 1788, the Major, in conjunction with other friends, embarked in an undertaking in manufacture on a considerable scale; expecting it would prove to themselves a beneficial speculation, but knowing that it must, at all events, benefit their country in its favourite staple of wool. A large and beautiful building was soon erected, at Clarborough, near Retford, in the county of Nottingham; and, being covered in on the approach of winter, a holiday was given on the 5th of November, when, in commemoration of an event which had taken place exactly *one hundred years* before, an event dear to the recollection of every true Englishman, a hundred of King William's shillings were given to the workmen to regale themselves, and the building was called *The Revolution-Mill.*

In this year, also, Major C. having previously sold his estate at Darlton, in the county of Nottingham, purchased an estate in Lincolnshire, of which the township and manor of Brothertoft is the principal part. Here he shortly after fixed his residence, improving the estate, cultivating it with judgement,

judgement, in a high-spirited and expensive manner, and embellishing this retirement with taste, but in a style of simplicity adapted to the title he gave it of *Brothertoft-Farm*; and here, dividing his time between the plough and the pen, he follows the occupation of a Cincinnatus and a Washington; and, if he have not had the good fortune of those illustrious men of serving his country in high military commands, he has at least shewn himself an emulator of their virtues, by sacrificing his ambition at the shrine of his country, and boldly defending her dearest interests.

The culture of our indigenous plant, *isatis* or *woad*, with the juice of which, it is said, the ancient Britons stained their bodies, and which is an article much used by modern dyers, is at Brothertoft conducted on a large scale.

The woad is daily ground by means of a mill requiring the power of eight horses, and the room in which the grinding-wheels act upon the plant is above forty feet square, forming the centre only of a building nearly two hundred feet long and two stories high. In front and rear of the wings are erected lofty *ranges* containing some thousand wooden grates, with galleries between them, on which the woad, after ground and made into balls, is dried for preservation. On one side of this singular group, which at a distance resembles a great castle, and forming one front with the great building above-mentioned, is another building containing tenements for thirty or more families of the

woad-labourers and the agent who superintends them, a school, and other conveniences; the whole together making a striking appearance, and adorning this level country. It refreshes the mind of the traveller by gratifying his eye with a pleasing picture, and his mind with ideas of the earth's bounty, and of the benefits of human industry well directed. The establishment is an unique, bearing many marks of invention, and the works in general being on a construction much superior to any which are applied to the same purposes either in this or any other country.

In 1789, the Major was invited, by a decided majority of the burgesses of Retford, to represent them in parliament, whereupon he declared himself a candidate in a hand-bill expressive of his political principles. It will not be thought surprising that a little intercourse with the electors of a petty borough should have determined this gentleman to take his leave of them again, which he not long afterwards did, and Mr. William Petrie on the same interest was elected in 1790.

We must now attend the Major to dinner on a particular occasion, because this dinner had a considerable influence on some subsequent events concerning him. On the 14th of July, 1791, he met the Friends of Freedom at the Crown-and-Anchor Tavern, in London, to celebrate the anniversary of the fall of the Bastille; and, within a month afterwards, he received a letter from his brother, who had a familiar acquaintance with the Duke

Duke of Newcastle, lord-lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, to inform him, by desire, that his Grace "could not consistently with his political principles promote him to the vacant lieutenant-colonelcy" of the militia; and it was added, "this being the case, I presume you will resign immediately." In quoting these words in the "Letter to the Duke of Newcastle," which the Major soon after published, he says, "Resign! No, my good brother, nothing like it. It is more agreeable to me to make knaves wince under my correction, than laugh at my pettish folly." In this letter to his Grace, which details a long series of injuries, with a view, no doubt, of driving him out of the regiment, the Major, with a dignity becoming his own character, and with the spirit of an Englishman, arraigns the lord-lieutenant at the bar of the public, for a conduct "not only illiberal, but illegal; not only oppressive, but dishonourable and unconstitutional." "For aught that I know," says he, "this accusation may be metamorphosed into a breach of privilege; and I, the accuser, may be called before the bar of that right honourable House of which you are a member, to answer to that complaint. Should it so happen, my defence, my Lord, would still be your crimination; and at that bar, I would still assert, that your conduct has been illiberal, illegal, oppressive, dishonourable, and unconstitutional."

The Major did not, it seems, conceive he had any thing to fear from the power of the House on

that occasion. Neither had he been more influenced by a piece of intelligence brought him, while preparing for the press the letter it was known he had written, although it seemed intended to divert him from his purpose of making it public: by an intimate acquaintance of the Duke's he had been told, and in the way of a friendly caution, that his Grace not long before had challenged a gentleman of the bar, who took some public liberties with his name.

But, to return to the celebration of the downfal of the Bastille, and what followed upon it:—the lord-lieutenant of Nottinghamshire not only refused to Major C. the lieutenant-colonelcy, which, after three or four promotions over his head, at the instance of the colonel, and then unknown to the Major, he had *promised* him, but, in the month of September of that year, he commissioned another officer as Major, thereby dismissing him, as his Grace thought, from the regiment; and without even the civility of sending him a message to inform him of the event.* The transaction, however, being grossly illegal, Major C. paid no regard to it; but, exposing the indecency and the folly of the proceeding, he declared he should "appear in his post when the regiment next assembled." Care was however taken not to call out the regiment at all in the year 1792, in which the Major's Letter was published;

* *Letter to the Duke of Newcastle, p.* 73.

lished; and, at an annual meeting of the deputy-lieutenants, assembled on the 23d of October, the mighty object of removing Major Cartwright from the militia, as fourteen years of ill-treatment had not provoked him to resign, was at last accomplished. Under the *supposed* authority of a late act of parliament, he was superseded; and the deputy-lieutenants "Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this meeting be given to John Cartwright, Esq. for his services as Major in the Nottinghamshire regiment of militia."

Notwithstanding this decency of conduct in the meeting, few, perhaps, will be so sceptical as to doubt, but that he was discharged as a *punishment* for publicly rejoicing, that twenty-five millions of human beings had broken their chains and asserted their freedom; and it must also be recollected, that the first ineffectual attempt at inflicting this *punishment* took place so early as September, 1791.

Some persons, from the internal evidence alone of Major C.'s Letter to the Duke of N———, have thought, that to discharge from the national militia such a man, to gratify either such a Duke or his masters, was an act to which it could not have been easy for English gentlemen to have stooped; especially, after the Major had said to this Duke, "either the labour of reading the law, for instructions how to proceed, was too great an effort; or you had a mind to shew *the deputy-lieutenants*

lieutenants with how much contempt you could treat them."*—"Are we to understand, that you equally despised both *the law* and *the deputy-lieutenants?*† But be not, my good lord duke, discouraged; rally your scattered troops; *assemble your mercenaries*; call a council of war; and gallantly open a new campaign. Your future ability and prowess may wipe away the past disgrace; and your sage brows may yet be decorated with the laurel of victory."‡

"Is it, then, the honourable tenure upon which every gentleman is to hold his commission in *your* militia, that he presumes not to rejoice but when you rejoice, nor to weep but when you weep? Is he neither to express his satisfaction when other nations became free, nor to open his lips in favour of the liberties of his own country? But, at all events, I conclude, that he must make no attempt to remove abuses in the representation of Great Britain, be they ever so scandalous, or productive of ever so much injury to the rights, the interests, and the morals, of the people; so long as your Grace remains a borough-holder, and of course one of those ******* who despoil the Commons of that representation in parliament, which belongs to them *alone?*—These are serious questions, which my brother-officers, and those of the whole English militia, will do well to consider, as becomes their im-

* Page 59. † P. 69. ‡ P. 70.

portance.

portance. It becomes them, as well as myself, to spurn at the knavery and insolence of office, employed to root out from the militia all independency of mind. It becomes every man of us to express his indignation whenever treated as the property of a court-dependent, possessing not sufficient virtue to be himself the friend of either civil or religious freedom; nor wisdom enough to shut up and conceal that want of virtue within the dark and narrow call of his own bosom."

By the intimate friends of Major C. it is well known, that, although he acquiesced in the discharge of 1792, for the sake of his own repose, yet he laughed at it as *illegal*. It is only at *the end* of every *five* years, that, under the Act of 26 Geo. III. c. 107, a militia-officer *may be discharged*. From the 26th of his Majesty, or 1786, the *only* legal periods of discharge are, of course, the years 1791, 1796, 1801, and so on. Hence it should seem only necessary to be able *to count five*, to discover that a discharge in 1792 was not according to law.

In the spring of the year 1792, as appears from papers produced on the trial of Mr. Horne-Tooke, Major C. was a regular attendant at the Society for Constitutional Information, and frequently in the chair; and, by consulting that trial, it will also be found, that a newly-founded patriotic society about that time sprang up in Southwark, which, in the declaration of its principles, made use of these expressions, "equal active

active citizenship," and "representative government." Major Cartwright, thinking these expressions injudicious, visited the society in question at one of its most numerous meetings, where he was received with much welcome, and allowed to join in its proceedings. Nor was that all; for, in a speech calculated at once to inspire patriotism, and to direct its exertions in the line of the constitution, and moving the society to come to an explicit resolution, declaratory of its attachment to a government of king, lords, and commons, the speaker was much applauded, and his motion was unanimously adopted.

Hence it may be seen, that, although the energetic reasoning and the uncommon eloquence of Paine (who is an enthusiast, in season and out of season, for governments simply representative) had influenced these patriots to adopt in some degree his language, his doctrine in that particular had not sunk into their hearts, and it was easy for judicious men to convince them, that, under the circumstances of their own country, it was right to adhere to a constitution, which, if enjoyed in its purity, would confer upon the people the solid blessings of representation, although it admitted of particular privileges being possessed by a few. The Major, with the same views, visited two or three other new societies, and in each instance with the same success: nor did he desist, until he had obtained deputations from all of them, and from the parent-society, of which he himself

had been the founder, to meet together and vote, as the joint act of the whole, the same declaration. Here, then, will not the dispassionate eye of reason discern the true character of these societies? and well would it be, for the peace and happiness of our country, were the *aristocracy* as ready as the *democracy* to listen to the voice of this friend to the English constitution! Many have been his exhortations to the former, not to become a bar to a reform in our representation, lest the people, discovering that either privilege must be annihilated, or liberty must perish, become universally Painites. Should that day ever arrive, it is not all the machinery of power that can keep the millions in subjection to a few lords in ermine. On the formation of the *Society of the Friends of the People, associated for the purpose of obtaining a parliamentary reform,* which also happened in 1792, Major C. became a member; and that he was not either inactive or luke-warm we may safely conclude.*

We find, from the Major's writings, that in 1793, when the ministerial plan for raising voluntary corps of selected persons was proposed in the district where he resides, that he moved its rejection, and to substitute in its place one more constitutional, by inviting every tax-paying householder to arm, and by appointing a committee, consisting of the magistrates and other gentle-

* See Commonwealth in Danger, p. 137.

men,

men, to consult the law of the land for instructions how to organize and regulate such a force. In the same year, he also published his "Letter to a Friend at Boston," vindicating the friends of parliamentary reformation, and calling on the associators under the banner of Mr. Reeves, who professed to support a government of kings, lords, and *commons*, to act consistently with their professions, and containing, likewise, arguments against rushing into the present war.

About the time of the state-trials, in 1794, he began to write "The Commonwealth in Danger," which was published in 1795. Besides a controversy of some length with the versatile author of "*The Example of France a Warning to Britain*," this work takes an instructive view of the state of the nation, and suggests important considerations respecting the means of repelling invasion.

It cannot be supposed, that, when the whole nation was thrown into a state of agitation by the bills of Lord Grenville and Mr. Pitt, for altering the criminal law of England respecting treason and sedition, he, who is the subject of these memoirs, should have been unmoved. The truth is, he warmly opposed, in a meeting at Boston, an address to the throne, in which an implied approbation was given to those bills; and he likewise, in November, 1795, wrote and published a Letter to the High Sheriff of the county of Lincoln on the subject, alleging his inability from lameness to attend a county-meeting for addressing his Majesty, and requesting

requesting his written sentiments might be read; which request, however, was not complied with. * As containing the substance of his arguments against the two bills, he also included, as part of his letter to the sheriff, a copy of an argumentative petition of some length, which in his own name he had transmitted to the House of Commons, conjuring them not to pass such laws.† This petition was presented by Mr. Fox, who on that occasion observed, that "he had not the honour of having the political support of this gentleman; on the contrary, he had manifested the most ardent zeal in opposition to his measures when he had been in office; and had been equally sincere and strenuous in supporting the present administration, so long as he conceived their measures directed to the advancement of public happiness; but, the instant Mr. Pitt abandoned the principles which had raised him to popularity and power, Major Cartwright had withdrawn his confidence and support; but, laying aside all partial consideration, he was a man whom all parties respected. He was one whose enlightened mind, and profound constitutional knowledge, placed him in the highest rank of public character, and whose purity of principle and consistency of conduct through life commanded the most respectful attention to his opinions." In this petition, Major Cartwright displayed the same magnanimity and

* See p. 10 of the Appendix to this Letter.

† Letter, p. 23.

patriotism

patriotism which had distinguished his conduct upon all occasions, where the interests of his country were concerned.

In the month of May, 1796, Major C. received, from a body of electors of the borough of Boston, an offer of a seat in parliament, which of course they professed to be both willing and able to bestow upon him; but he did not make his appearance as a candidate. In the same year, he published his "Constitutional Defence of England, Internal and External." The first part of which, relating to *internal* defence, is "a speech intended to have been spoken to the high sheriff and freeholders of the county of Lincoln, on the 6th of May, 1796, at a meeting to consider of proper persons to represent the county in parliament." The second part is in the form of a letter, condemning the modes of arming, adopted by ministers, as unconstitutional, and recommending a revival of the *posse comitatus*; which he enforces with much general reasoning, and some reference to statutes and law-books.

The character of the speech may be collected from a single sentence of it. "As an individual freeholder, I came here perfectly disengaged, to seek constitutional representatives or none. I have no fox-hunting vote to bestow on any one; neither have I a vote for party, nor for connexion; no, nor even for sacred friendship. To my friend I will give my purse, my hand, my heart; but I will not give him that which is not mine. My vote

vote I hold in trust; my vote belongs to my country, and my country alone shall have it!"— The whole composition breathes the same spirit, and its references to the French revolution, and to the Roman history after the loss of liberty, deserve to be read with particular attention by every nobleman and gentleman of England.

In 1797, the Major, ever vigilant in the cause of reform, had been active in his neighbourhood in promoting a fresh petition to parliament for that object; when the language of certain counter-petitioners appearing to him extremely unconstitutional, it gave rise to an "Appeal on the Subject of the English Constitution."

The several *Reviews* have rendered it unnecessary for the writer of these memoirs to characterize this little work: they speak of it as follows:

MONTHLY REVIEW. — "The pamphlet is distinguished for moderation and sound constitutional doctrine."

CRITICAL REVIEW. — "On the abstract question, in which our author is at issue with the anti-petitioners, we are decidedly of opinion, that law, history, and right reason, are entirely on his side."

ANALYTICAL REVIEW. — "The day of redemption approaches, and, we believe, with no tardy step. In the mean time Mr. Cartwright's efforts are not lost. He is informing the mind of that public, without which nothing can be accomplished, and which must be enlightened before it can be used to advantage. The times are awful and propitious. We must be made perfect through suffering; but he is the best friend of his species, whose efforts are exerted to weaken the point or lessen the amount of that suffering. We wish every neighbourhood had a Cartwright,

and then we should not fear a storm. We should then hope to see the representation of the people corrected by peaceful and constitutional measures. This is our *first wish* for our country: may the abuses of the constitution be corrected, and her peace be eternal."

British Critic.—"Major C. is an enthusiast (we hope an honest one) in the cause of general, if not universal, suffrage. But, while he proposes only the former, his arguments unfortunately go the whole length of the latter; for, if no man is free but he who has a vote in the choice of a representative in parliament, *his plan** undoubtedly excludes, from his beloved *civil liberty*, a very numerous part of the nation, and reduces them to what he calls *legal protection*; which, the Major tells us, may be equally well enjoyed under the most arbitrary government, &c.†

"In *his plan* of arming householders throughout the kingdom, for the defence of their property and the constitution, we cordially agree, and the Major must rejoice with us in the happy accomplishment of his wishes," &c.‡

"The rest of this tract consists of an exposition of the writer's general sentiments on political or civil liberty, for which his great authority, his Magnus Apollo, is the Earl of Abingdon!" &c.

"But we would recommend to the writer to re-consider those principles,§ (or, as we should call them, prejudices,)" &c.

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* A plan of reform, which, as far as it goes, is founded on just principles, and which, at the same time, falls far short of the author's known ideas of rectitude, is no ill evidence of moderation.

† Among the abstruser questions in politics, perhaps, few distinctions are more important than that which is here so imperfectly quoted from the author, between *legal protection* and *political liberty*.

‡ "Accomplishment!" By poetical figure, an acorn may be called an oak.

§ The Major, it seems, has not only *re-considered* them, but *re-published* them without alteration, and with much additional matter in their support.

The

The year 1798 was scarcely ushered in, when Major Cartwright, in conjunction with half a dozen honest neighbours, once more advertised for a public meeting, with a view of obtaining another petition for reform; and certain propositions, intended to be moved as the grounds of such petition, were circulated with the summons. The extraordinary interference of a magistrate, previous to the intended meeting, caused the invitation to be withdrawn by the Major and his friends, in order "to defeat the evil designs of such as might meditate the raising of a disturbance, with a view of charging it upon the friends of reform;"* but the circumstance of this interference gave rise to the publication of a new edition of the "Appeal," with very large additions.

The Major appears to have begun the additions so early as the month of March, 1798, although the last hand, as it should seem by dates in the work, was not put to it for twelve months. The author's subject being the "English Constitution," he has not confined himself to the local violations of it that first called forth his pen, but has taken an extensive view of the injuries it has sustained, the corruptions it has undergone, and the abuses to which it is every day exposed. He has, also, at least to the mind of the writer of these memoirs, placed it in a new point of view, as "a two-fold and admirable system of civil and military polity most

* Page 64.

happily combined; whereby these two characters, like the faculties of intellectual ability and bodily force in man, are inseparably interwoven, and constitute a complete state or *free* government."* Free, indeed, and glorious would it be, if its principles, as clearly established by his pen, were the rule of practical government!

Whether we follow him in his judicious corrections of that great man, Sir William Blackstone; or, in his manly vindication of the rights of juries; or, in his acute observations on the liberty of the press; or, in his masterly assertion of the sovereignty of the people; or, in his dispassionate observations on the proposed union with Ireland; or, in his demonstration of the incompetence of parliament to change the constitution; or, in his refutation of long-established, but erroneous, maxims in the art of war, and his luminous revival of that military system which was "the noblest legacy of an English king of kings, the greatest that ever bore earthly rule;"* we shall at least have reason to say that he deserves the thanks of his country.

The memoirs of Major Cartwright, down to the present period, ought not to be concluded without mentioning the late spirited advertisement of his Appeal; which advertisement exhibits his opinion of the present state of this nation.

To those who may desire to know more of the *private* history of Major Cartwright than has appeared

* Preface.

peared in these pages, let it be observed, that the little incidents of retired life, unless mixed up with fiction, and fashioned into a tale by the hand of the novelist, will seldom gratify expectation. Wherefore the writer of these memoirs has not been solicitous to collect private anecdotes of his friend, thinking a few that are characteristic will be sufficient for publication; for, such only can be of general concern.

That an Englishman, who, prior to hostilities with America, had vindicated her right to independence, and advised an admission and declaration of it by parliament, should enjoy the particular regard and esteem of Americans, who personally knew him, is most natural. There were a few at that time in London with whom he became intimate; and one of these was a man of good connexions in his own country. The Major calling rather late one evening upon this friend, a person booted and spurred retired just as he entered the room. The American gentleman, after a little conversation, appearing absorbed in thought, the Major, judging his visit unseasonable, was taking his leave. His friend stopped him, and attempted to assume his accustomed ease; but soon again fell into silence and absence. The Major took his hat; and his friend again with earnestness urged his stay; but other relapses and tokens of a labouring mind occurring, the visitor was forcing himself away; but his friend stepped between him and the door, and held out his hand as for-

bidding a retreat. After walking a few seconds in silence and apparent agitation, he turned short to the Major and said, " I am going to shew the confidence I repose in you. France has signed a treaty of alliance with my country; the man you saw had just brought me the express from ——, at Paris; and, as it would be some hours after that express came away before the English ambassador would be in possession of the fact, ministers here will probably be ignorant of the event all to-morrow." He then gave an outline of the treaty, of which the certainty of an early French war was the most striking feature.

Here then was such an opportunity for a 'Change-Alley speculation, or other means of safely turning the intelligence to a gambling account, as might have made the fortune of an unscrupulous man; but he, to whom it was communicated, made no such attempt, thinking that all gaming with an ignorant adversary, and with a certainty of winning, was no better than robbery; as well as that no man ought to play for a greater stake than, in the event of losing, he was able to pay. And, when this temptation was thrown in his way, the Major had no other certain income than his half-pay as a naval lieutenant. Thus the important intelligence of his friend had no other effect upon his mind, than to fill it with indignation at the mass of vice and folly which then poisoned the counsels of the state and were profusely sowing the seeds of calamity to his country.

From

From another anecdote, which has also relation to *play*, the fashionable reader will learn with surprise, that, although Major C. has been married nearly twenty years, he has never yet possessed such a piece of furniture as a card-table; nor were cards ever admitted into his house, except for the amusement of aged visitors, or of a sick person requiring such an indulgence. His rejection of cards is not accompanied with any thing cynical, but from seeing and knowing the ill effects of habit. He was particularly pleased with a passage in a sermon of his friend George Walker, observing, that "cards were invented for the amusement of a royal idiot, and they bid fair to make idiots of us all." He was also much diverted with an insane nobleman he once sat down with to cards, in company with the relation who had the care of him. My lord played very gravely until *tired*, which happening to be in the middle of a deal, he threw down his cards and took his walk; and this the Major frequently calls the most rational game at cards he ever played. But the great cause of his distaste to play was what happened to him early in life. He had at one time, as he often relates, so far given the reins to those passions, which make men gamesters, that, for six weeks, he scarcely ever quitted the card-table, playing with the keenest relish, from early morn till late at eve, and but scantily allowing himself the refreshments of food and sleep; and, to add to the fascination, he had played with success at the end of this period.

riod. He reflected on this madness, and on practices he had detected in some of the players; and he determined on a solitary serious walk. This walk he took on the summit of Portsdown-Hill, which overlooks Portsmouth and the sea, the destined theatre, as he then thought, of his future life. The nature of his self-interrogation, while contemplating the magnificent prospect before him, and the course of his thoughts, will be collected, when, to use his own expression, it is observed, that, at this moment, "the tide turned, and ever afterwards set in a contrary direction."

The late institution of a Society to improve Naval Architecture recalls to mind a suggestion thrown out thirty years ago by Mr. Cartwright, then a midshipman, that, under due encouragement to ingenious men, in the ornamenting our ships of war, we might, in due time, expect to see arise, in this country, a nautic *order* of architecture. "It will readily be admitted," said he, "that arms alone, without arts, could never have raised the Greeks or Romans to that authority they acquired in the world," &c. And, speaking of naval sculpture, he observed, "In all the productions of genius in this class, there is a certain style and character, transfused through the whole, which give them a peculiar grace, beauty, and propriety, as embellishments of moveable fabrics on a liquid element, and such as demonstrate that a nautic order of architecture is reducible to a system of general rules and principles, while its variety

iety must be infinite, and its proportions various vithout imperfection." See a letter signed INSULARIS, in the St. James's Chronicle, in April, 1769.—The Society of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, appears to have taken the hint; for, very soon afterwards, a premium was offered for the best specimen of a nautic order; but the few candidates who appeared did not understand the society's intention: the specimens produced were not of the nature they sought, being of matters appertaining to the mere ship-carpenter instead of the draughtsman and sculptor.

The Major has no children, except, as he phrases it, "a borrowed one," a neice whom he has brought up from an infant, and with whom he is not likely to part, until she may form a nearer connexion. The extent and the nature of his friendships have been delicately touched by his own hand. — "What! must you assail me!" says he to the Duke of N. page 25, "even in my friend! Must his integrity be corrupted! must his honour be stained! and a consciousness of baseness attend him to the grave, rather than that I should not receive a mortification. Fie! fie!—Had you succeeded there, you had conquered me indeed; you had effectually driven me from the corps; it had been a stab I could not have resisted. —Where is the man capable of beholding one, whom once he honoured, fallen from the dignity of virtue and the nobility of friendship!—My nerves had been unequal to the task! But, thank God, the

the friendships of my life have ever been with men of principle. The circle, indeed, is small; but it is a circle, within which I entertain no apprehension of ever being deserted or betrayed."—As a son, there is none now to speak of him; as a husband, a brother, an uncle, a master, a landlord, and a neighbour, if the writer of these memoirs may judge, the sentiments entertained of him are such as much contribute to his happiness.

It is a favourite artifice of some men to represent the noble spirits who struggle against oppression and tyranny as tyrants in their own families, and of disagreeable qualities in the private circles of society. How well such a representation would be founded in the present case, let the reader judge from the following words received by the writer in answer to a letter of inquiry, which, amongst others, he sent to a very respectable clergyman in Nottinghamshire, so circumstanced as to be able to give the fullest information from his own knowledge: "Major C.'s *private* life is not only free from vice, but full of virtue. He was exemplary in his duties as a son, and he is a most tender and affectionate husband, a generous and indulgent master, and the kindest brother that was ever born into the world, perhaps, since the illustrious Roman, *notus in fratres animi paterni*. The misfortunes of his excellent family, which excite the unfeigned pity of all who know them, have unhappily called for all the virtue, in the last

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of those characters, of the modern *Proculeius*; and his sisters declare, with tears of gratitude and love, that he has been to them a FATHER. His honour and honesty are unimpeachable; — they are confessed to be unspotted, even by his most furious *political* enemies; for, it is impossible he can have any other; and, in some late family-difficulties, with which the world has nothing to do, have shewn themselves in such purity as to excite the admiration of all to whom the facts were known. His manners in society are polite and easy. He is a perfectly well-bred gentleman. He never gives the slightest offence by introducing his political opinions, nor by his manner of arguing upon them when introduced by others. He discusses them with such philosophical quiet and such a mild and gentle spirit, that a stranger is astonished to have been conversing with so obnoxious a character. In short, I know no defect in this man's heart; and, were you to go from door to door, through this whole county, to collect opinions about him, the worst that you could hear would be, that he maintains a set of what perhaps they might call *new-fangled* notions about representation, and that he maintains them pertinaciously." To which this most worthy correspondent adds, " My communication, however short, may perhaps be valuable for the being extracted from the most respectable part of our county, who have known the Major from his childhood,

hood, and though many of them differ from him in political opinion."

In another letter with which the writer has been favoured, a gentleman, who has invariably shewn that he possesses the nicest feelings with the highest sense of honour, and who is very particularly acquainted with the circumstance which occasioned the spirited remonstrance to the Duke of Newcastle, says he is *sure* that all facts stated therein are *accurate:* and, after noticing the great talents of the remonstrator, displayed early in his profession, and testified by his great commanders,—his skill as an engineer and a mechanic,—sums up his character in saying, "that he is an excellent writer, voluminous publications may be brought to witness; but I think there is no occasion to refer to more than his late luminous "APPEAL," to manifest him a temperate, learned, and eloquent politician. Here is a variety of talents, hardly to be met with in one man: and yet, such is the perverseness of this age, that a true appreciation of his worth must be left to a few friends and a future age."

If any reader should be disposed to say, that these memoirs have more the air of eulogy than of faithful delineation of character, and ask, where are the shades, the foibles, the failings, the vices, to which every son of Adam and of Eve is liable in a greater or a less degree; the writer can give no other answer, than that he knows

knows no more of them than the great variety of persons to whom he has applied for information, and many of whom, from long acquaintance, and even intimacy, could not have been ignorant of them, if they existed; whence he must conclude, that, if Major Cartwright be not one of the best of men, and an ornament and an honour to his country and his species, he must be one of the most consummate, and the most successful, hypocrites upon earth.

R.

THE DUKE OF LEINSTER.

WILLIAM Robert Fitzgerald is the second of his illustrious family who has inherited a dukedom; his father, not only the most ancient earl, but the most ancient peer, of Ireland, was, immediately after the accession of his present Majesty to the throne, promoted, from being Earl of Kildare, to be Marquis of Kildare and Duke of Leinster; (the latter is the eldest son's title of that family.) He is also Viscount Taplow of Great Britain, and as such has taken his seat in the British House of Peers.

His Grace is not less nobly descended in the maternal line:—his mother, the dowager-dutchess of Leinster, is sister to the present and daughter of the late Duke of Richmond, and thus allied as well to the King of Sardinia as to the two rival relatives

relatives who had so long contended for the imperial crown of Great Britain, — those of Brunswick and Stuart.

The Duke of Leinster received the first part of his education at Eton-School; whence he went to the University of Cambridge, and, after taking a degree, visited most of the polite courts of Europe, where the rank of Marquis of Kildare procured him not more attention and respect than his amiable qualities peculiarly commanded.

His Lordship, charmed with the manners, the climate, and the fine arts, (of which he is not only an admirer, but a great patron,) of Italy, spent most of those years, devoted to making the grand tour, in that delightful country. He was upon his travels when the present Marquis Townshend was appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland, who, in the year 1768, gave the royal assent to the Octennial Bill, which then changed the duration of the Irish parliament, from being perpetual, to the period of eight years. The perpetual parliament was then dissolved, and a general election immediately followed; at which the freemen and freeholders of the city of Dublin nominated the Marquis of Kildare, who was then in Italy, and just entered into the twenty-second year of his age, a candidate to represent them.

This ancient family felt themselves much flattered by the kind partiality manifested, in this instance, by the citizens of Dublin towards their eldest son. They accepted the invitation; the Mar-

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quis was declared a candidate, and a canvas upon the part of his Lordship immediately commenced.

The contest which took place at this election was greater than any which has since occurred on a similar occasion. One candidate* was almost unanimously returned; but the Marquis of Kildare was opposed by John La Touche, Esq. whose father was then living, and was the richest and most respectable banker in Ireland. The firm of his house is yet continued by his sons, (one of whom is John,) and continues to be marked with the same liberality and integrity which has distinguished it for near a century, and given it the character of being, perhaps, the first private banking-house in the empire.

The Marquis being abroad, a gentleman of much celebrity, and at that time well known all over Europe, (the late John St.-Leger, Esq.) became *locum tenens* for his Lordship, in whose favour the election ultimately terminated after a long contest, which is stated to have cost each of those two candidates above twenty thousand pounds, while Doctor Lucas was returned free of expense.

This parliament, the first assembled after the passing the Octennial Bill, continued almost the full period of its limitation, being called together in

* The late Doctor Lucas, an Irish physician of great eminence, a man not less celebrated for his great abilities than his genuine patriotism; and to whose memory the citizens of Dublin have erected a finely sculptured pedestrian marble statue in the Royal Exchange of that city.

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the year 1768, and not dissolved until the year 1776; at which time, the death of the late Duke of Leinster prevented the Marquis from again becoming a candidate for the Irish metropolis, as he had now succeeded his father in his title and estates.

During the American war, a descent of the combined enemy upon Ireland was not only meditated, but seriously apprehended, and among the numerous corps which formed the volunteer armies of Ireland, a regiment was embodied at Dublin, in the year 1778, composed of the most respectable merchants and traders of that city, called the *Dublin Volunteers*, who unanimously elected the Duke of Leinster their colonel.

The spirit of the nation rapidly augmented this army of the people; and, upon the 4th of November, 1779, his Grace acted in the capacity of reviewing-general of all the corps of Dublin and the neighbouring counties.

There were some men at this time in the Duke of Leinster's regiment, whose patriotism indicated a strong tendency to degenerate into sedition: the spirit by which they were actuated spread itself among other corps; his Grace warmly reprobated, in the House of Peers, their symptoms of disaffection, and recommended, in their room, a steady perseverance, tempered with moderation, in the attainment of those great constitutional measures which the Irish volunteer army were then seeking, and afterwards obtained in the year 1782. This

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moderate conduct adopted by the Duke much offended some of the turbulent spirits in his Grace's regiment; they immediately seceded, and formed a small corps, which they called the *Independent* Dublin Volunteers.

From this period, the popularity of the Duke of Leinster continued to abate, and his Grace no longer held the distinguished character of reviewing-general of the Irish volunteer army; that honour was conferred upon the Earl of Charlemont, who continued in the undisturbed enjoyment of that rank as long as the volunteers remained embodied.

The Duke of Leinster frequently delivers his sentiments in the Irish House of Lords, and, as a public speaker, acquits himself with a very fair degree of credit: his politics, however, do not possess that consistent firmness, which in most cases is necessary to insure the appellation of a steady patriot; though, in reality, few men are better disposed to promote the real interests of their country.

His Grace's moderation and complacency, in his public capacity, are as conspicuous as his amiable and endearing disposition in private life. His having accepted, at different times, certain offices under the crown, when he happened to co-operate with administration, has in many instances shaken that public confidence which otherwise would have invariably attached to him.

Some few years since, his Grace held the office of Master of the Rolls in Ireland, now jointly held by the Earls Glandore and Carysfort; and again, so lately as the administration of Earl Fitzwilliam, he accepted the office of Clerk of the Crown and Hanapen.

When the important question of Regency was agitated in 1789, the Duke of Leinster supported the measure of appointing the Prince of Wales regent without any restriction, and, with Earl Charlemont, constituted the deputation from the Irish House of Lords, to wait upon his Royal Highness with their address for that purpose.

His Grace married the daughter of the late Lord St. George, by whom he has several children. His eldest daughter, Lady Mary Fitzgerald, lately married General Sir Robert Ross; his eldest son, the present Marquis of Kildare, is now about ten years old. The Dutchess of Leinster died in the last year, greatly lamented, in Berkeley-Square, London.

The Duke of Leinster's elder brother, Lord Charles Fitzgerald, is now an admiral in his Majesty's navy. His second brother, Lord Henry, was, during the late Irish parliament, the colleague of Mr. Grattan, in the representation of the city of Dublin, to which they were both elected free of expense, in opposition to two aldermen of that city, who were supported by the patronage of government. His third brother, Lord Robert, was formerly secretary to the Duke of Dorset, at the court

court of Versailles, and afterwards *chargé des affaires* in France; and is now ambassador at Copenhagen, from the court of St. James's. His younger brother, the late Lord Edward Fitzgerald, terminated his political career, during the late unhappy rebellion in the sister-kingdom, in a manner too melancholy to dwell upon.

Leinster-House, his Grace's town-residence at Dublin, is the most princely mansion in that city; and his country-seat, at Carton, in the county of Kildare, is not less magnificent; it is situated about twelve miles from Dublin, upon his Grace's estate, which, though occupying above eighty thousand acres in that county, did not produce, at the late general election in Ireland, one hundred registered *Protestant* freeholders.

His Grace, some years since, built a very neat and regular town, (called Maynooth,) adjoining his country-residence, principally inhabited by an humble race of manufacturers; and near this town he granted a large piece of ground, containing several acres, to the trustees of a seminary, established by act of parliament, in the year 1795, for the education of Roman Catholic youth;*

* The Irish government deemed it necessary to establish this seminary for the education of the Roman Catholic youths, to obviate the ill effects of foreign education, and of principles of foreign politics, imbibed by gentlemen of that persuasion. The liberality of parliament has already granted, from time to time, within the last three years, thirty-six thousand pounds in aid of this institution;

upon which they have since erected a very handsome and commodious college for that purpose.

No tenantry are more affectionately treated by a landlord than those of the Duke of Leinster: he almost constantly resides among them, and the poor on his estate enjoy the continual distribution of comfort in their necessities, from the hospitable and princely mansion of Carton.

The Duke of Leinster has hitherto sent ten members into the Irish House of Commons, viz. two for the county of Kildare, and two for the borough of Kildare; two for the borough of Naas, two for the borough of Athy, and two for the borough of Harristown.

Notwithstanding the great estate possessed by the Duke of Leinster, the incumbrances which must always attach to so large a family, by the fortunes of brothers and sisters, jointures, children, &c. &c. with many other circumstances, added to his munificence in private life, have occasioned his Grace sometimes to have experienced pecuniary embarrassments; to alleviate which, he disposed of his borough of Harristown, in the year 1793, to John La Touche, Esq. an eminent

stitution; and an implied promise to grant it an annual stipend of eight thousand pounds. This stipend, having in the present year, passed through the House of Commons, was nevertheless rejected by the Lords, (on the motion of the lord-chancellor,) in consequence of the conduct of several Irish Roman Catholic priests during the late rebellion.

banker

banker of Dublin, for the sum of sixteen thousand pounds.*

The melancholy fate of his Grace's younger brother, and the recent death of his amiable Dutchess, appear to have greatly affected him, and for the present, at least, to have withdrawn him from public life. He is at this time in the fifty-third year of his age.

W. Y.

MRS. INCHBALD.

ON laying before our readers a few particulars relative to a lady of eminent abilities, it might be natural for us to introduce our remarks with complimenting the advocates of the Rights of Woman; and, when speaking of a lady equally dis-

* The liberality of Mr. John La Touche in this transaction deserves to be noticed. His newly erected country-house, which is spacious and costly, in the centre of an extensive and highly improved demesne, stands within this borough; and, when he found the Duke of Leinster was about to dispose of it, he communicated with his Grace to know the price, which the Duke laid at fourteen thousand pounds. Just at this time, several boroughs were in the market: among others, the Earl of Westmeath was disposing of his borough of Fore to the late Colonel Bruen; when Mr. La Touche replied, that, as his house and demesne were upon this borough, it ought to bring as much money as any other borough, and accordingly he paid the Duke of Leinster what some others had sold for, viz. *sixteen thousand pounds.*

tinguished for the attractions of her person, as the superiority of her talents, it might be expected of the writer to express himself in terms of the highest admiration.

There is, unquestionably, ample room for complimentary language, and many rhetorical flourishes, on the present occasion. But, in Mrs. Inchbald, there are still higher grounds for eulogium. Her moral character constitutes her principal excellence; and, though useful talents and personal accomplishments, of themselves, form materials for an agreeable picture, moral qualities give the polish that fascinates the heart.

The history of this amiable woman is, in a very great degree, interesting, and, to speak the truth, not a little romantic. But a hint only will be here attempted; for, a complete view of the most important events of such a life would require a considerable volume; and a work of this kind, it is expected, will be shortly laid before the public, written by Mrs. Inchbald's own pen, a work which, whenever it makes its appearance, will, we doubt not, excite great interest, and convey much useful instruction.

Retirement, generally speaking, has been the nursery for the most distinguished characters.—The birth-place of Mrs. Inchbald was an obscure village, five miles from Bury St. Edmunds, in Suffolk. Her father's name was Simson, a farmer, who had a large family, distinguished for the beauty of their persons. Elizabeth, the present Mrs.

Mrs. Inchbald, was particularly handsome; but, having a natural impediment in her speech, she contracted, very early in life, an attachment to retirement, and a great fondness for reading, which excited in her, at the age of seventeen, a strong desire of visiting the metropolis, of which she had read so much in novels. She accordingly rambled from her father's house, without acquainting an individual with her intentions, and came to London, a mere inquisitive adventurer.

This first important step in her life will, doubtless, by many be reckoned a rash and imprudent one. But the common rules of custom and prudence are not the ordinary measure of minds bent on adventure and experiment. The difficulties to be encountered form an apology in the breast of the adventurer; and, if success attend the experiment, it is followed with admiration.

On Mrs. Inchbald's arrival in London, and disappointment, (for, the friend, on whose counsel she relied, had left her place of residence in the metropolis,) she thought that the profession which most readily offered itself to her was that of an actress; a profession, however, in which she might have expected to meet with some difficulties. Nor need we be surprised, if she encountered considerable mortification, ere she accomplished her purpose; and that she did not at first, notwithstanding the charms of a most alluring person, succeed with managers.

In London, she married Mr. Inchbald, of Drury-Lane Theatre, and went with him to Edinburgh, where she continued four years, and performed the principal parts on the Edinburgh Theatre, when she was but eighteen years of age.

From this circumstance we may draw a conclusion, that Mrs. Inchbald's unsuccessful attempts, hitherto, proceeded principally from natural impediments and private prejudices: for, one who could with tolerable acceptance appear at so early a period, as a principal actress, must have possessed a considerable degree of intellect, and no common insight into the human character.

At length, Mrs. Yates, who had been long in possession of the public approbation in London, retired to Edinburgh, in consequence of a disagreement with the manager of Drury-Lane house, and became a formidable rival to Mrs. Inchbald. We shall not enter on a detail: suffice it to say, that our fair actress experienced many incivilities from Mrs. Yates; in consequence of which she and her husband quitted Edinburgh Theatre, and passed two years at York in the theatrical character.

Indifferent health, brought on by trials of a private and delicate nature, occasioned Mrs. Inchbald's quitting York to pass a twelvemonth in the South of France, whence she returned to England with a new stock of health, and with a mind stored with new ideas, prepared to encounter the other difficulties that make up this life of adventures.

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Soon after her arrival in England, she lost her husband; and, though her marriage had been rather the result of gratitude than of the tender affection, (for, there was a great disproportion in the ages of Mr. and Mrs. Inchbald,) her conduct, on this occasion, reflected on her the highest honour. She now continued to act, for four years, at Covent-Garden Theatre, and experienced some mortifications. At the end of which, she accepted a place, not a very advantageous one, on the Dublin Theatre. Thus was she fated to be passed from theatre to theatre.

On quitting the Dublin Theatre, Mrs. Inchbald returned once more to Covent-Garden, where she continued an actress for some years; which situation she suddenly relinquished, continuing, however, to reside in London, though in great obscurity, and oppressed with poverty.

Considering the obstructions that even nature had thrown in her way, Mrs. Inchbald had no reason to complain of that share of the public attention which she obtained. She, however, was now quite satisfied in relinquishing for ever all thoughts of the stage, as an actress. It must not, however, be passed unnoticed, that, during the whole period of Mrs. Inchbald's theatrical engagements, she maintained an unblemished character; that the incidents of her life, though they have been made the subject of much conversation in the gay world, could never expose her to the censure of even the most serious and severe, that the worthy part

part of both sexes, who were honoured with her acquaintance, highly esteemed her worth. Her acquaintance with Mrs. Siddons and Lady Derby more particularly strengthened into friendship; and Mrs. Inchbald left behind her a character that may stand in opposition to the prejudices of such as think that an actress cannot be a virtuous woman. Nothing argues greater illiberality and littleness of intellect than such general conclusions; and it is but justice to observe, that there are to be found, among those who have devoted themselves to the theatrical life, many persons of the most exemplary conduct.

Of the conduct of Mrs. Inchbald, as a woman of honour, even amidst all the gaiety of youth, and the powerful influence of a most fascinating person, there is but one opinion.

Henceforth, then, we are to consider Mrs. Inchbald in the light of an author only, in which character she holds a respectable station, and procures a very genteel independence. Her literary department is, comedy, farce, translation, and novel.

The first piece she offered to Mr. Colman was a comedy, in five acts, entitled *I'll Tell you What*, whose hard fortune, however, it was to lie unnoticed, in the manager's hands, till the success of a much smaller piece, The Mogul Tale, or the Descent of the Balloon, excited his curiosity to give it a perusal. The reception which this admired comedy obtained is well known. The writer

writer has preserved the true province of comedy, which is a regard to manners, and an exhibition of character. The style possesses that sprightliness, the allusions that *naïveté*, which could not fail to please.

The manager, Mr. George Colman, an incomparable judge, accredited this comedy by a prologue, written by himself, and the public approbation stamped it as a performance of merit. The tide of Mrs. Inchbald's fortune, therefore, now began to turn. No longer perplexed as an actress, whose engagements, we have seen, were always precarious, and whose salary was seldom great; no longer mortified by undertaking writings, for which she could not procure a purchaser; she now saw her prospects brighten. Accordingly, she began to enlarge her rules of economy, and changed her humble lodgings for one more suited to her circumstances; for, the great excellence in the conduct of Mrs. Inchbald has ever been a studied economy; by which, always accommodating her mode of living to her circumstances, she preserved, even amidst her humble fortunes, a high sense of moral dignity and her independence.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT has been followed by other comedies, all of a similar cast as to style, character, and incident. Their titles are as follow: *Such Things Are*; *Every One has his Fault*; *The Wedding-Day*; *Wives as they Were, and Maids as they Are.* Our limits will not allow us to enter on particulars; suffice it to say, that each of them has

has been favourably received by the public; and that (I am not inquiring into their *peculiar* excellencies or defects) they possess that clear familiar style, seasoned with smartness, without being debased by groveling sentiments or gross language, which is the characteristic of *genteel* comedy.

The department of Mrs. Inchbald, then, confines itself to comedy. She seems never to have attempted tragedy, or even what is called tragi-comedy. Her province, therefore, was humour and satire, occasionally interspersed with the serious, agreeable to the costume of modern comedy. But, as this species of writing is much conversant with the ridiculous, it was natural for Mrs. Inchbald to undertake that species of comic writing known by the name of farce.

It is the province of farce rather to caricature, than accurately to delineate character, the proper sphere of comedy. Accordingly, we expect to find in it buffooneries, extravagancies, and false humour. Though Mrs. Inchbald, therefore, has thought proper to entitle some of her smaller pieces farces, we shall take the liberty of calling them comedies in *two*, or *three*, or *four* acts; and this observation can offend none, who recollect, that, as comedy frequently sinks into farce, so farce frequently rises into comedy. Mrs. Inchbald's farces are *The Mogul Tale* and *Appearances are against Them.*

Those dramatic works of Mrs. Inchbald, which are either translations or foreign dramas adapted

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to the English stage, are the following: *The Widow's Vow; Animal Magnetism; The Married Man; Next-Door Neighbours; The Child of Nature;* and *Lovers' Vows.*

The very pleasing comedy, entitled *The Child of Nature*, seems to have been the favourite of our amiable comic writer, as she seems to have had her eye on it when she wrote her story entitled Nature and Art, as also in the *Lovers' Vows;* for, the character of Amanthis, in the former, may be fairly supposed to have given a turn to the character of Amelia in the latter.

Lovers' Vows ranks in that description of writing, denominated serious comedy, which is a considerable improvement on what has been called the old comedy, and has long since obtained a respectable rank in dramatic representations. Of Kotzebue, the much-admired author of THE CHILD OF LOVE, and the general character of his writings, it is unnecessary to say any thing here; and, of Lovers' Vows, Kotzebue's play, adapted by Mrs. Inchbald to the English stage, it would be equally unnecessary to be particular. The favourable manner in which it has been received is in every one's recollection. We cannot, however, forbear noticing, that, in examining the character of Lovers' Vows, impartial criticism should mark the distinction between a translation and accommodating a foreign play to an English audience. For, as different languages have different idioms, so also have different nations their different

different manners, and different stages their different laws; and, if a dramatic composition, formed on the manners and rules of one country, is to be performed in another, the different manners of the people, and the different laws of their theatres, must be consulted.

The Child of Love, by Kotzebue, having been given to Mrs. Inchbald, by the manager of Covent-Garden Theatre, to be "fitted," (I use her own words,) "as her opinion should direct, to his stage," it was the part of Mrs. Inchbald not to suffer her respect for the ingenious Kotzebue to interfere with her respect for an English audience. She has, in her preface, pointed out the instances in which she has departed from her original; in most of which, being better adapted to the English stage, she seems to be perfectly justified. On the importance and worth of such alterations, readers of different tastes will think differently.

The next department of literature, in which we are to view Mrs. Inchbald, is that of novel-writing, in which she has been no less successful than in dramatic compositions.

That species of writing, called, in France and England, novels, embraces tales or stories, the incidents of which are sufficiently interesting or uncommon, so as to excite surprise, and yet sufficiently natural, and, if I may so speak, domestic, to come home to the bosom. Love commonly forms the leading character of the performance. In keeping within the regions of nature and probability,

bability, it is distinguished from romance; and, not being represented by actors, it is distinguished from the drama; at the same time, it possesses some properties that belong to both.

The pleasing story, entitled Nature and Art, Mrs. Inchbald has not thought proper to denominate a novel. We have so entitled it, merely to give it a specific character; but, by whatever title the work be denominated, it is sufficient to say, that the work fully answers its title. The story is interesting, the characters are accurately drawn, and the morality unexceptionably good. The satire (for, it has some satire) is just; the language is sprightly, but not fantastic; and the reflections are serious, without being affected. Nature and Art is in two volumes.

The *Simple Story*, written also by our author, is a novel in four volumes. It is characterized by the same simplicity and spirit, both as to style and manner, as the former; but the characters are more various, the passions more interesting, and the plot is more intricate and surprising. This story is said to be Mrs. Inchbald's favourite, as it has certainly been with the public. We cannot forbear observing, that the leading points in Mrs. Inchbald's adventurous, but honourable, life seem to have furnished two or three leading incidents in these stories, though diversified by numerous peculiarities and concealed with much contrivance. The Simple Story has gone through several editions.

Farther

Farther than this, our memoirs do not proceed. As a writer, Mrs. I. has been successful; and, considering herself much indebted to her bookseller, Mr. Robinson, she always speaks of him with cordiality and respect. The various perplexities and difficulties encountered by Mrs. Inchbald on her arrival in the metropolis; her obstacles among managers; her disappointments, and sudden reverses of fortune, her pertinent observations on manners and characters, (such as cannot have escaped a mind formed for reflection, and determined on experiment,) were we even possessed of facts, would make no part of our object; nor would reflections on her religious or political sentiments. Things of this kind will come with great propriety from the able pen of Mrs. Inchbald herself.

E.R.

EARL WENTWORTH FITZWILLIAM

WAS born in 1748, and succeeded to his titles at the age of eight years. Till his father's death, he had borne the title of Lord Milton, and he then became Earl Fitzwilliam, both in the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland. The large estates which fell to him on this event were, during his minority, confided to the care of the late Sir Matthew Lambe, father of the present LORD MELBURNE.

He was sent, at a very early age, to Eton-school, where his agreeable and generous disposition attracted

tracted the love of his school-fellows, many of whom contracted an uncommon affection for him. Among these may be particularly noticed Mr. Fox and the present Earls of CARLISLE and DORCHESTER. From Eton he was sent to King's College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of doctor of laws. He afterwards went on his travels.

Few young noblemen ever entered life under more favourable auspices. Inheriting a good fortune from his father, he was also considered as presumptive heir to the large estates of the Marquis of Rockingham; as the friend of the Dukes of Devonshire and Portland, and of all the great characters whose names adorned the list of patriots of those days. To these connexions he soon added others, after he came of age, by his marriage with Lady Charlotte Ponsonby, daughter of the late, and sister of the present, EARL of BESBOROUGH. This union connected him still closer with the great Whig-families. He was married to this lady nearly sixteen years before she had a child, when she brought him a son and heir, the present Lord Milton; and she has since borne him a daughter.

From the time his Lordship took his seat in the House of Peers till the present unhappy contest with the French Republic, it may be boldly affirmed, that Lord Fitzwilliam never gave a vote hat could be deemed hostile to the liberties and nterests of his country. He entered warmly into

the patriotic party, of which his illustrious uncle, Lord Rockingham, was the chief; and, during the great political contest of 1780, 1781, and 1782, when the nation evinced its weariness of the war, and the country-gentlemen, finding themselves duped by the minister, called loudly for a peace, Lord Fitzwilliam, by his motions in the House of Peers, or by his active support of the patriotic motions of other noble lords, was greatly instrumental in removing the obnoxious minister, and the uncle of Lord Fitzwilliam (Lord Rockingham) became prime-minister.

The death of that respected nobleman caused a fatal schism in the administration; and, on Lord Shelburne's acceptance of the reins of government, many of the Rockingham party quitted him. Among these was Lord Fitzwilliam, who joined Mr. Fox; and those, who have since been denominated the Portland party. This party, irritated at the mode taken by Lord Shelburne to wrest the power from their hands, committed an error, which at once blasted their reputation and their hopes: they joined the very man who had been almost the sole cause of their country's misfortunes, and whom many of them had threatened to bring to the scaffold.

In Mr. Fox's plan of a new constitution for the settlements in India, Lord Fitzwilliam was included as head of the commissioners for India affairs; a place which would have given him as much power and influence as is now possessed by Mr.

Mr. Dundas. But the boldness of the design, aided by the tricks of its opponents, defeated this intention of the ministry, and drove the party again from power. The disgust of the people was indeed so general against the measure and against the coalition-ministry, that Lord Fitzwilliam, who had succeeded to the powerful interest of his uncle in the county and city of York, lost the whole of it, and his opponents have since carried the election almost entirely against him.

The noble Lord continued, however, to act steadily with his friend for many years. During the affair of the regency, he was the person designed by his party to fill the office of lord-lieutenant of the kingdom of Ireland; and so fully assured were they of succeeding to power, that it is said the richest state-liveries were made, and every other preparation which could add magnificence and splendour to his vice-royalty.

But an event was approaching, which was to have the most important effect, both public and private, in this country. It in fact seems destined to operate a total change in the public opinion of this country; and in private life to separate, perhaps for ever, men who had previously entertained of each other the highest opinion, and who had thought and acted together from their earliest youth.

This event was the French revolution; and the man, whose mischievous eloquence could effect so great an evil, was the late Mr. Burke. That

many of the Opposition should become the dupes of Mr. Burke's violent prejudices was not surprising; they had maintained an unavailing contest for power for many years, and this event afforded them a pretext for going over to the ministry; but it is astonishing that a nobleman of Lord Fitzwilliam's independent spirit and fortune should suffer himself to be led away by this man, who it now appears was writing and declaiming only for a pension!

With the public disputes between Mr. Burke and Mr. Fox, and with the poignant distress of mind it occasioned the latter, every one is acquainted. The defection of Lord Fitzwilliam, the friend of his childhood, and the man of whose political principles he is said to have formed the highest opinion, was however to Mr. Fox a still more severe affliction. Lord Fitzwilliam is also peculiarly unfortunate in his new connexions, having repeatedly avowed opinions upon French affairs almost as opposite to theirs as they are to those of his old friends.

But let us now revert to his Lordship's connexions in Ireland.

The very large estate, which this nobleman possesses in that kingdom, seemed to stand in need of attention; and accordingly his Lordship turned toward it care truly paternal. Some years since, at a very great expense, he erected a large and beautiful public building in the town of Rathdrum, in the county of Wicklow, in that kingdom, for the

sale

sale of flannels, the principal manufacture of that county. From this erection most essential benefit has been derived to those manufacturers, by the facility with which they are brought to market, and by having a certain place established for their sale.

The self-interested and illiberal landlord would be induced to impute the munificence of Lord Fitzwilliam to the ultimate hope of extending his own interest, in his Irish estates, by increased rents or increased certainty of their being well paid; but those, who intimately knew the principles on which his Lordship acts, will attribute his conduct to far nobler motives. It is certain, that, so far from a tenant upon this estate ever feeling difficulty, much less oppression, his Lordship has often, during inclement seasons, ordered his agent to present such of his tenants as were known to be in distressed circumstances with a receipt for their half-year's rent; and although, for the last three years, his Lordship received little from this vast estate in Ireland, yet still are those persons experiencing his bounty.

Born a Whig, and educated in principles of hereditary public virtue, his Lordship long adhered to those principles in his parliamentary conduct. Ireland particularly is indebted to his exertions. In the hour of her distress, she remembered who had been her benefactor; and her people, as with one voice, called upon HIM for assistance; and even under the present administration, though not congenial

nial with his own sentiments, he consented to take, what PUBLIC NECESSITY required, the helm of the sister-kingdom. His measures for a moment appeased the storm; his liberality gave confidence to all; and his CONCILIATION changed discord and distraction into cheering unanimity.

In this situation, his Lordship opened the session of the Irish parliament in January, 1795, with these emphatic words from the throne,

"In obedience to his Majesty's commands, I now resort to your councils." —

This commenced a session of parliament, which, until then, had not for thirteen preceding years experienced the confidence of the people, or the universal conviction, that all the measures of its government would be pre-eminently for the advantage of Ireland.

To enter minutely into a detail of what has since been understood, as *broken compacts* between his Majesty's ministers and this nobleman, touching his Lordship's administration in Ireland, would be foreign from the purpose of these pages. It shall suffice to say, that Lord Fitzwilliam found it impossible to proceed upon his plan of making Ireland happy, and of rivetting the hearts of its people to its king, without dismissing from office those men, whose situation was, as it were, the axis upon which the executive government revolved. All the men so removed were certainly obnoxious to the disinterested part of the people of that kingdom. They nevertheless assumed to themselves

selves the appellation of the *king's friends*. In their room, Lord Fitzwilliam called others to fill the several offices of the state, whose integrity and political virtue were unimpeached. Indeed a character for public virtue seemed alone to be the quality which governed all his appointments. It was in no instance more conspicuous than in the nomination, which, during his short administration, he made to the highest spiritual dignity in that kingdom. It was shortly after his Lordship's accession to the Irish government that the late Dr. Robinson, Baron Rokeby, archbishop of Armagh and primate of all Ireland, died. In making choice of a successor, Lord Fitzwilliam did not resort to the long list of ecclesiastical recommendations, however highly patronized; nor to the spiritual danglers who swarm about a lord-lieutenant's levee; but he sought among the bench of Irish bishops a character, whose conduct had been marked by virtue, religion, and piety. He selected a man, who had been, for above twenty years, eminently distinguished in the discharge of all those duties, and translated the present Dr. William Newcome from the see of Waterford to the archbishopric of Armagh, who yet continues to be a charitable and pious ornament to the spiritual peerage.

Among the men dismissed from office by Lord Fitzwilliam was the Right Hon. John Beresford, then first commissioner of the revenue, who imme-

diately resorted to England as one of the *king's friends*. This absence, however important he had been considered in the Irish administration, was not found materially to impede the happy progress of Lord Fitzwilliam's counsels. Parliament seconded his Lordship's endeavours to tranquillize the country, and promote the general good of the empire, with great unanimity. In less than six weeks after the opening of this session of parliament, not only the ordinary supplies of the year were granted, but an extraordinary supply of £200,000 for the purpose of carrying on the war. But, strange to tell! this was no sooner done than Lord Fitzwilliam was recalled, and Mr. Beresford re-instated in his official and confidential situations.

So highly venerated was Lord Fitzwilliam during his lieutenancy in Ireland, that a panic, more easy to be conceived than expressed, pervaded the whole kingdom, but more particularly the city of Dublin, upon the news of his Lordship's recall being made public. The nation again seemed to sink into despondency. The houses, shops, &c. in every street through which he passed, were all shut upon the memorable day on which he sailed for England; and at noon-day a solemn silence and melancholy mourning marked the metropolis, and seemed to indicate the sad catastrophe, which has since befallen that ill-fated country.

It was impossible but such marks of national gratitude, sorrow, and disappointment, must have greatly

greatly affected his Lordship; and it is equally true, that, in this important period of his life, when he indulged in the fond hope of making millions happy, his mortification only arose from his disappointment in being denied the privilege of bestowing that boon.

During the short time Lord Fitzwilliam continued in the lieutenancy of Ireland, Dublin-castle exhibited a splendour which had never before been displayed in that kingdom. The magnificence of all his appointments, while they bespoke the dignity of the proprietor, furnished the means of industry and of happiness to thousands.

The laudable example held out at the Irish court by Lord and Lady Fitzwilliam, operated by attracting thither the truly good, amiable, and virtuous part of the nation; in the same proportion that the vicious, the profligate, and the abandoned, fled from its lustre.

Lord Fitzwilliam, upon his return to England, took occasion to state some of the leading features of his short-lived administration in Ireland, in two letters to his old friend Lord Carlisle; which letters were afterwards published. In these, his Lordship enters pretty full into the question, what privileges were agreed upon to be extended to the Roman Catholics of Ireland; he proves the wishes of the British cabinet to have been to keep back the agitation of that question; and finally attributes his sudden and ungracious recall to the machinations of Mr. Beresford.

Mr.

Mr. Beresford, who had remained all this time in England, contrived to bring Lord Fitzwilliam to an *éclaircissement*, which was to be determined as an affair of honour. Lord F. gave Mr. B. a meeting in Hyde-park; but, the matter having by some means transpired, a stop was put to any farther proceedings in that way.

Lord Fitzwilliam is a strenuous advocate in the House of Peers for the prosecution of the present war; and, when Lord Malmesbury was sent by ministers, in the year 1796, to negotiate a peace with the French directory at Paris, Lord Fitzwilliam entered his single protest upon the journals of the House of Lords against the measure, in which he stated at great length his reasons and objections.

At the opening of the session of parliament in 1797, his Lordship, in terms of the strongest reprobation, delivered his sentiments upon the separate treaty of peace just then entered into between the Emperor of Germany and the French Republic; a treaty, which he then prognosticated would not long exist; and remarked to ministers of how little avail had been their previous subsidies to a potentate, whom his Lordship called "*a Jacobin emperor.*"

A few months after, and in the same session of parliament, when Lord Moira brought forward the perilous situation of Ireland, and truly stated the smothered flame then kindling, which has since burst forth into such a blaze of terror,

Lord

Lord Fitzwilliam warmly coincided with his Lordship, and strenuously recommended measures of conciliation instead of those of coersion and of torture. He advised rather to bring back the affections of the Irish people, and once more to send the dove to the throne, which might perhaps return with the olive, than try the event of harsh measures with an impatient people. This advice was not attended to; it was rejected by the minister, and reprobated by the leading men in Ireland, who with a giddy hardiness of heart spurned every plan of mildness, without adverting to the probable consequence of such conduct. The consequence which actually followed was, that Ireland rushed into open rebellion; and it was thought advisable to have recourse to a system of still more severe coercion, such indeed as was never before heard of in the annals of the British empire. What has followed needs not to be repeated.

By the junction of the Fitzwilliam and Rockingham estates, now vested in his Lordship, he sends five members into the House of Commons; viz. one for Higham-Ferrars, two for Malton, and two for Peterborough; none of which were ever bartered by him or any of his Lordship's illustrious ancestors.

The dismission of Lord Fitzwilliam from the vice-royalty of Ireland was evidently such as would have roused most men to opposition, from a conviction of the dangerous measure adopted by the ministry;

ministry; but how much were the public surprised to see his Lordship still with the ministry, and shewing a difference of opinion from them chiefly in the affairs of Ireland.

But a subsequent transaction astonished the public, and the noble Lord's friends, much more.

Early in the year 1798, the conduct of the Duke of Norfolk at a tavern, in the celebration of the anniversary of Mr. Fox's first election for Westminster, gave great offence to ministers; insomuch, that his Grace was dismissed from the lieutenancy of the West Riding of Yorkshire, &c. and the command of the first West York regiment of militia.

The popularity of the Duke of Norfolk, both as lord-lieutenant of that county and colonel of their first regiment, was such as rendered any substitute whom ministers might appoint likely to be very unpalatable. Lord Fitzwilliam, they well knew, could not be objected to, either by the county or the regiment; they also knew *they* could not venture to propose an honour to that nobleman without the certainty of its being spurned at with disdain, as coming from men, whom his Lordship had so recently reprobated. There remained but one way to obtain Lord Fitzwilliam's acceptance of those honours; and, at the immediate request of his Majesty, he received his commission from his sovereign's hands.

The conduct of Lord Fitzwilliam towards this regiment is consistent with the general tenor of

his

his life. The first care he took was to promote all those officers who had been placed in the regiment by the Duke of Norfolk, before he presented any of his own friends with commissions.

When his Lordship is with the regiment, he constantly attends their mess; and, laying aside all the splendour of his rank and his usual attendants, he appears there with no more ostentatious shew than the youngest ensign of the corps.

The health, the situation, and the comforts, of the privates and their families, are his Lordship's peculiar care; and his ardent wish and constant desire seem to be, that nothing shall be spared to make the regiment complete and happy.

It is well known, his Lordship beholds with a jealous eye any infringement upon the established constitution of Great Britain. Such he conceives the sending the national militia out of the kingdom. Such he conceives the system of torture lately introduced into Ireland. And, when the offer of his regiment to serve in that kingdom was officially delivered by his Lordship, he did not fail expressly to state, that it was by no means to be understood he was to accompany them thither.

Notwithstanding which, a little after the arrival of Lord Cornwallis in Ireland, viz. in September, 1798, when the French made a descent upon that kingdom, Lord Fitzwilliam immediately repaired there for purposes, which, it has been rumoured, in case of emergency, were to be of a very important

tant and confidential nature, delegated from the highest authority.

His Lordship, in being an advocate for the prosecution of the present war, is no less a contributor to the expenses of carrying it on; as the splendour in which he lives in London and in Yorkshire, but more particularly at Milton-Abbey in Northamptonshire, is not equalled by any nobleman in Great Britain.

But it is not only by the taxes, which from this style of living he must pay, that he contributes to the expenses of the state; another instance lately occurred in the Irish parliament, which still farther evinces, in a most uncommon degree, the promptitude with which he assists to defray the expense of the country. A bill was passed there for appropriating a large sum of money to make good the losses sustained by suffering loyalists, during the late rebellion in that kingdom; of which description his Lordship was by far the most prominent individual; yet, when the injured claimants presented themselves, Sir W. G. Newcomen, a Dublin banker and M. P. rose in his place, and stated, that he had authority from Lord Fitzwilliam to decline receiving any compensation from government or the nation under that unhappy event.

His Lordship has been uniformly an advocate for the extension of all municipal rights to the persons professing the Roman Catholic religion. He conceives the worship of the Virgin Mary, and the doctrine of the real presence, should be no bar

bar to their emancipation. That, in this enlightened age, for ministers to assume a dictation upon the subject of religion, was to assume a power, which is excess of blasphemy as well as of blindness.

His liberality is unbounded. The number of private charities, which he has been in the habit of dispensing for the last twenty years; and the number of liberal donations, the majority of which has been distributed with such nice delicacy that the persons relieved (many of whom much above the common level) are ignorant to this hour of the bounteous donor; are equalled by few indeed among the affluent even of this alms-giving age.

Lord Fitzwilliam, now in his fifty-first year, is tall and slender; of countenance and manner engaging, persuasive, and attractive. He delights a little in the sports of the turf; but his principal hours of enjoyment are occupied in the delights of the chase; exhibiting, in the midst of a splendid circle, the keenness of a sportsman, combined with the magnificence of a prince.

The noble Lord has erected on his estate in Yorkshire a beacon, designed as a mausoleum to the memory of his uncle, the late ever-to-be-lamented Marquis of Rockingham. We advise his Lordship often to contemplate this work, and to reflect upon the virtues and the principles of the man he has thus intended to honour.

W. Y.

MR.

MR. GODWIN.

MR. WILLIAM GODWIN is descended from a family of dissenters. His father, whose Christian name was John, was educated at the dissenters' college at Northampton, under the celebrated Dr. Doddridge; and was, in the concluding part of his life, minister of a congregation at Guestwick, a village in Norfolk. His attainments are said not to have exceeded what is usual among persons of his situation. He lived, however, with the character of a very honest man.

Mr. Edward Godwin, the grandfather of Mr. Godwin, was the contemporary of Watts, Bradbury, Barker, and Neale, eminent ministers in the beginning of this century, with whom he was intimately connected. He resided in London, where he had a large congregation, most of whom were of the richer class among the dissenters. It is impossible for us to say what was the extent of his talents or learning; but his name stood very high. It was usual for the eminent writers among his friends to consult him on their productions; and a story is told of him, which, if true, and there seems to be no reason to question it, is a proof that he was regarded as a man of taste as well as learning. The story is the following:—Robert Blair, the author of a poem entitled the GRAVE, residing in a remote part of Scotland, committed the care of publishing that poem to Mr. Edward Godwin; at the same time consulting him as a critic.

critic. The poem, as every one knows, acquired great celebrity; and the author, coming to town some time afterward, embraced his friend, not only thanking him for his care in the publication, but acknowledging he was indebted, for the greatest part of his success, to his critic's advice and aid.

Mr. Godwin received the earliest part of his education from a school-master in his father's neighbourhood. To discover what accidents have assisted in forming the habits of a great mind is one of the most beneficial purposes of biography. Mr. Godwin's first master seems to deserve a portion of the praise that belongs to those who have sensibility to perceive talents in their germ, and generosity to contribute to their growth with patient culture. He was a man above the ordinary rate of persons of his employment in so obscure a spot as that in which he kept his school; and, having a good deal of penetration, and still more enthusiasm and benevolence, he soon openly declared that young Godwin was such a child as had never come under his observation before.

From this master, with whom it is probable Mr. Godwin acquired something better than the mere rudiments of such branches of learning as were taught in his school, he was sent to Norwich to pursue his studies under a private tutor; and, from Norwich, was removed to the Dissenters' College, at Hoxton, near London, where he remained five years under the tuition of Dr. Kip-

pis, editor of the New Biographia Britannica, and Dr. Rees, editor of Chambers's Cyclopedia. The ordinary course of studies at Hoxton included the classics, Hebrew, logic, ethics, divinity, rhetoric, the mathematics, natural philosophy, and pneumatology.

Of Mr. Godwin's progress at the college little is known, and therefore it is probable there was nothing uncommon in it. He is said to have had a very small party there, by whom he was not only extremely beloved, but considered as infinitely superior to his fellow-students; and these are said to have avenged themselves by ridiculing him and his little faction.

It was usual for the young men at Hoxton, who were designed for ministers of the dissenting-church, to preach in London and its vicinity during the last year of their abode at the college. Mr. Godwin followed the practice; but it does not appear that he excelled his fellow-students. In 1778, he entered regularly on the office of a dissenting-minister, the functions of which he continued to discharge for the four years immediately succeeding, chiefly at Stowmarket, in Suffolk, where he had a congregation.

It well deserves to be noticed, that Mr. Godwin adopted the opinions of the Calvinists, although his teachers at Hoxton held the doctrine of Arminius or Arius. This, probably, was among the first fruits of that spirit of investigation that eminently marks his character. In the scheme of Calvinism,

Calvinism, there is much to attract a religious mind having the intrepidity to pursue an argument through all its consequences.

In 1782, he removed to London, with the resolution of trusting to literature for the means of his future subsistence. It is not to be expected, that we have been able to trace the process of Mr. Godwin's mind from the time of his assuming the office of a dissenting-minister to his laying it down. The more minute and curious parts can be known, with such accuracy as will justify the motives that make an investigation of that nature at all useful, only to himself, and must, in part, have escaped even his recollection; but Mr. Godwin, having early acquired the habit of close observation and profound research, is, no doubt, acquainted with many of the more subtle, as well as the palpable, operations of a change in opinions and feelings, perhaps without example for its extent, and it is his duty, as it is that of every man in his circumstances, to furnish the world with a history so important in the study of human nature. We have before us, however, a prodigy in its outward appearances. We find Mr. Godwin rigidly orthodox, till about the year 1783; and, in 1792, a writer, whose freedom of inquiry and fearlessness of deduction gave alarm not only to orthodoxy in religion, but to bigotry of every species. All that we have been able to discover, beyond that outside, is the very early existence in his character of a love of knowledge. Throughout

the whole of his inquiries, first in religion, and afterward in ethics, he never was to be satisfied till he had penetrated beyond the veil that at once bounds the discussions of the hypocrite and the perceptions of the ignorant.

With such a temper, something was to be expected from Mr. Godwin when he dedicated himself wholly to literature, and all his habits were of a nature to favour his pursuit. He was studious, patient, indefatigable, and extremely moderate in his expenditure. He soon perceived he could earn his bread with little labour; and, what was infinitely important to the completeness of his success, without any sacrifice of his taste and understanding to the multitude. Nor did he care how little more than bread he earned. To excel in his art was what he more immediately desired; and to be the successful advocate of truth, his ultimate and greatest ambition. Bearing these noble motives in his bosom, he was not impatient to appear before the public as a writer; and we are not to be surprised, that, for more than nine years after literature was his occupation, he was an obscure individual, except where accident had thrown him into the way of men who could distinguish talents while they were employed in collecting the materials of future success.

Mr. Godwin began his literary life in 1782; and it was not till 1792, or rather the beginning of 1793, that Political Justice was published. He had no reason to repent of the severe discipline he had

had imposed on himself. Within a few weeks of the appearance of that work, his immediate object, the acquisition of fame and its consequent power in the application of his talents, was obtained. He was not merely made known to the public, but was ranked at once among men of the highest genius and attainments.

The principles contained in Political Justice had all the appearances and many of the effects of self-evident axioms. To understand the terms, and adopt the propositions of the work, were so nearly inseparable, that it was a fact that some very great and learned men, in expressing an abhorrence of its doctrines, could not conceal the secret that their detestation of Political Justice was chiefly occasioned by its subtlety in eluding their zeal to detect the radical error, which, from certain propositions they held to be infallible, they were sincerely persuaded lay somewhere in the work. Political Justice at once tortured their feelings and baffled their reason. They were in the situation that fanatics in religion ascribe to some of their converts, believing and denying, and ready, in the bitterness of their hearts, to curse the question for intruding itself upon them. But, while there was this ludicrous struggle in the minds of some of the readers of Political Justice, its terms were in reality so simple and intelligible, that the work, although discussing its topics at great length and in very minute detail, was scarcely published when it was every where the theme

of popular conversation and praise. Perhaps no work of equal bulk ever had such a number of readers; and certainly no book of such profound inquiry ever made so many proselytes in an equal space of time. Pirated editions were published in Ireland and Scotland; and people of the lower class were the purchasers. In many places, perhaps some hundreds in England and Scotland, copies were bought by subscription, and read aloud in meetings of the subscribers.

Neither the favour Political Justice obtained with the populace, nor the strange puzzle it occasioned among some of the learned, are subjects of astonishment to him who considers the nature of the work. The fundamental proposition in Political Justice is, *that virtue consists in producing the happiness of society.* To deny that statement is to abandon all the pretensions on which men found their claim to respect for their moral conduct. The sincere man, therefore, embraces the proposition with his whole heart; he has no need to run to a master to know its meaning or to inquire if it is congenial with his feelings; to him it is real, if visionary to all the world beside. Mean time, the hypocrite is entrapped, if he ventures to open his mouth; for, he must acknowledge the truth of Mr. Godwin's statement, or formally publish a recantation of all the professions he has till that moment made of the motives of his public or social actions.

Mr.

Mr. Godwin's scheme of morals is exhibited with such distinctness in his work, that we find no difficulty in giving our readers its entire outline in a very few words. — *Virtue consists in producing the happiness of society, and is the individual interest and the general perfection of man: he is a being governed by intellectual motives: to inform his mind on every subject, to the utmost extent of human perception, would be to give him motives irresistibly inclining him to virtue, as defined above: political freedom is an essential means to the cultivation of his mind in the greatest degree; and political freedom and knowledge, successively the cause and effect of each other, would carry him on indefinitely in improvement of mind and happiness of condition: by the unrestrained cultivation of knowledge, and universal political freedom, it is possible to make every individual happy, and happy in a higher degree than the most fortunate is at present.*

It is not possible for us, in the limits of this sketch of Mr. Godwin's life, to examine the merits of the respective arguments of that writer and his opponents. But one remark is too important to this great question to be omitted. Mr. Godwin's adversaries were inconsistent in their objections: they represented him, in one and the same picture, as a visionary whose schemes were too grand to be practised, from the inherent defects of human nature, and as a systematical advocate of profligacy and vice. We are inclined to

treat, with a contempt of his understanding, the person who seriously entertains the latter of these objections. It would be, indeed, to possess a bold and ardent temper, if we were implicitly to believe that men in general will ever answer all the claims that Mr. Godwin's system makes upon them of integrity, fortitude, and benevolence. But we think it may be asserted, without a probability of contradiction from those whose real object is the happiness of mankind, that it is impracticable to ascend into the region of Mr. Godwin's speculations without improvement of the heart and enlargement of the understanding, and without carrying along with us into the world, we are obliged to act in, something to purify our conduct and ameliorate our condition.

In 1794, appeared Mr. Godwin's novel of Caleb Williams. His former production had so completely established his reputation for genius, that it can hardly be said this novel increased his fame. It proved the versatility of his powers; but the creative faculties, the richness, eloquence, and passion, displayed in Political Justice, were not excelled in Caleb Williams, although the latter was a form in which they were more obvious to the vulgar. Perhaps a work on ethics is never sufficient of itself to ensure the undiminished fame of a writer. Investigations of that kind, even when they produce facts, are in the nature of discoveries in arts, which are rendered insignificant by farther improvements in the same art. A work

of

of imagination, if conducted on the principles of human actions and enlivened by copiousness of invention, is eternal in its reputation. Mr. Godwin's Caleb Williams, therefore, gave permanency, rather than accession of quantity, to his fame.

In October, 1794, Mr. Godwin wrote a pamphlet entitled Cursory Strictures on the Charge delivered by Lord Chief-Justice Eyre to the Grand Jury on the 2d of October, 1794. In the charge which preceded the memorable state-trials of that year, certain doctrines were broached relative to the crime of high-treason, on the impression of which on the public mind probably depended the lives of the persons accused. The temper and circumstances of the times gave these doctrines such popularity, that almost instantaneously it was a current opinion that the accused were guilty, and would be convicted. Mr. Godwin saw the fallacy and danger of the reasoning in the charge; and, having employed a friend to write to his dictating, within eight-and-forty hours, produced his Cursory Strictures. They first appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*, and thence were copied into other papers; and were, at the same time, sent to the press in the form of a pamphlet. On the day the pamphlet was published, the bookseller received an intimation that he would be prosecuted if he sold another copy. He stopped the sale; and another publisher was of course to be sought. — But the business of the Cursory Strictures was already completed. — The subtle mischiefs of the charge

charge were exhibited in the Strictures with their natural undisguised deformity and coarseness. The public tide was turned; and, instead of the guilt and conviction of the accused, nothing was heard of, in the streets and places of resort, but the flagrancy of the offences of the charge.

Cursory Strictures afford a fine example of that species of writing. The author's vehement indignation, when he presents the charge to the public view stript of its cunning, is a beautiful contrast to his cool and steady temper in removing its artful coverings.

In 1795, Mr. Godwin published an edition of Political Justice, in 8vo. There is, in this edition, something to endear him to every generous mind, intent only on the discovery of truth. In revising the opinions of that book, in the interval between the first and second edition, he thought some were erroneous; and, with the candour becoming the value of the inquiry, he availed himself of the second edition to inform his readers of his mistakes. The principal difference in the two editions will be found in the treating of the four following topics: *Property; political change; marriage; and sincerity.*

Mr. Godwin, in entertaining that great and comprehensive principle, *that there is no portion of our time or property which virtue does not inflexibly apply to some definite use*, stated, in the first edition, as a natural result, that the existence of property in the hands of individuals, with the rights

rights and powers ascribed to it by the law, is an error in politics. In the second edition, he qualifies the statement by acknowledging that the several members of society ought to be allowed a discretion in the use of the property they earn; and that, although it is still true that it is their duty to employ every particle of property according to some mode dictated by the occasion, and not by their caprice, it is inconsistent with political liberty to superintend and direct the application through the medium of political regulations.

In the first edition, Mr. Godwin, in speaking of *political change*, seems to have betrayed an impatience for the hour of its arrival; with the condition, constantly annexed, however, of its being forwarded only by opinion, unassisted with force. In the second edition, he most explicitly and strenuously maintains that there exists, in the nature of things, a necessity for a slow as well as gradual change.

In urging his objections to *marriage*, as it exists at present, Mr. Godwin had left it as a question he did not decide, whether the promiscuous intercourse of the sexes, or the selection of an individual of one sex by an individual of the other, would be the result of his system; but, in the second edition, he decides the question distinctly in favour of the latter.

Sincerity, Mr. Godwin, in the first edition, insisted upon as a quality never to be violated, even in any extreme case; and, in the second edition,

edition, he qualifies this statement by the rule of utility, which sometimes, he admits, may demand a sacrifice of sincerity.

Beside these changes in Mr. Godwin's opinions, which are certainly important to his view of the result of his scheme in society, there are many others of considerably less effect. We have nothing at present to do with the truth or error of Mr. Godwin's opinions. But it is a question material to this sketch of his character, how far his authority, as a moralist, ought to be affected by these alterations? And this question depends upon the resolution of a previous one, how far the alterations in Political Justice are destructive of the vital principles of the book as first described by the author? If his scheme remains entire in one statement and the other, and the alterations exhibit no more than improvement in subordinate parts, making the whole and even its outline stronger than before, then it will be admitted that Mr. Godwin's candour, in giving the actual state of his mind to his reader, is not the only motive of reliance on him, but that his authority is increased by his activity and penetration in the detection of his own erroneous deductions.

In 1796, Mr. Godwin published a volume of miscellaneous essays under the title of The Inquirer. This book assumes a very modest appearance, affecting to contain nothing more than hints on important subjects. But these are strongly conceived, and have an original cast; and the work

work affords one more proof of the writer's unquenchable passion for the discovery of truth.

In 1797, a third edition of Political Justice was published. A second and a third edition of Caleb Williams were published in 1795 and 1797.

There is but one publication more from Mr. Godwin's pen that we have to notice, and that is connected with a story of peculiar interest. We allude to the Memoirs of Mrs. Godwin's Life. The story connected with that work deserves to be told at length, if it could come within our limits. It exhibited Mr. Godwin in that difficult moment for him when the lofty doctrines he had taught made heavy claims on his own practice. He had loudly proclaimed his objections to marriage, and his hatred of that state was indeed inveterate enough. The time came, when he was to subject the woman of his choice to unmerited obloquy, or comply with forms he could not approve. The situation was trying. But Mr. Godwin conceived the production of happiness to be the true criterion of morality; and he did not hesitate to choose, where unlimited mischiefs were to be incurred on one hand, and a definite and comparatively small evil endured on the other.

Mr. Godwin was married to Mrs. Wolstonecraft in 1797. He had slightly known that most celebrated and most injured woman before her residence in France. After her return, accident brought him into her company. He learnt her sorrowful

sorrowful situation at that period; and, with a zeal, the vulgar are accustomed to call romantic, attached himself to the design of restoring a noble mind to itself and society. The elevated talents, and perhaps still more elevated temper, of Mrs. Wolstonecraft, were almost universally known in the world; and the sweetest of the feminine attractions were not less the qualities of this extraordinary woman than the grandeur of mind so generally acknowledged in her. She was one of those, that the powers of nature and the cultivation of society sometimes unite to form, for whom every sensible and polished mind almost loses its veneration in the excess of its love.

The manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Godwin lived together may be presented as a model for conjugal life. Mr. Godwin's former dislike of marriage was occasioned chiefly by the tyranny it almost always includes. It is not surprising, therefore, that his enlightened views of that intercourse should enable him to shun that rock. But it is not by the mere absence of prominent mischiefs that we can describe Mr. Godwin's roof while his wife lived. To all that is dignified in the delicate relation of married persons, we must add those innumerable requisites of domestic peace that are found in cheerfulness, good-will, and mutual deference to the adverse opinions that, in two minds of great vigour, must almost necessarily exist. One of the passions that has the most powerful hold on Mr. Godwin's mind is, a fondness for conversation

ersation with persons of superior talents. He has always asserted it to be among the most fertile causes of intellectual improvement, when rich and congenial souls chance to meet. We shall not, therefore, be very much in danger of exaggerating, if we endeavour to form a picture of the perfection to which he now carried this favourite scheme of pleasure and improvement. So many accessory temptations as conversation offered him, in his intercourse with Mrs. Godwin, would not fail to bring its cultivation, in this instance, to a very unusual degree of excellence.

Mrs. Godwin died in September, 1797. In the scenes that belong to that afflicting period, Mr. Godwin was still to be exhibited in an unexpected light to those who were accustomed to regard him as a hard unfeeling theorist. He watched over the means attempted for her recovery with a fortitude and presence of mind that recalled to his friends the recollection of the philosopher they had been used to contemplate in his writings; but, when hope was gone, he abandoned himself to sorrow that seemed to assimilate him with the weakest of mankind: and, when Mrs. Godwin was no more, he admitted of no consolation, in the first moments of his anguish, but that of paying a superstitious respect to her remains.

It was in January, 1798, that Mr. Godwin published his Memoirs of the Life of Mrs. Godwin. In May, of the same year, a second edition of that work appeared. A painful choice seems to present

present itself to every ingenuous person who composes memoirs of himself or of any one so nearly connected with himself as in the present instance. He must either expose himself with disadvantage to the illiberal and malicious temper that exists in the world, or violate the honour and integrity of his feelings. Yet, that the heart should be known in all its windings, is an object of infinite importance to him who would benefit the human race. Mr. Godwin did not prefer a cowardly silence, nor treachery to the public, having chosen to write. Perhaps such works as the Memoirs of Mrs. Godwin's Life, and Rousseau's Confessions, will ever disgrace their writers with the meaner spirits of the world; but, then, it is to be remembered, that this herd neither confers, nor can take away, fame.

Of Mr. Godwin's character, both as a man and a writer, the chief features are obvious in this slight sketch of his life. His writings display greatness of talent; and his life, virtue practised on principles supposed to be too refined to be applicable to ordinary affairs. Without laying claim to the power of raising his conduct to the elevation of his doctrines, which he does not hold to be necessary to their solidity, he perhaps is foremost among those who approach that rule, of making the happiness of society the object of moral conduct. And, if society never reaches that state of improvement in which that fine maxim is the general law, Mr. Godwin has, nevertheless, this recompense

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for his labours, — that there will always be a virtuous class to whom his speculations will have afforded new motives for the exertion of their humanity, to alleviate at least the miseries to which men, on that supposition, are unhappily doomed.

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THE REV. MR. GRAVES.

(OF CLAVERTON.)

IT is now nearly forty years since the public were first acquainted with the subject of this memoir, as the intimate friend and correspondent of the late Mr. Shenstone, of the Leasowes. From that period, he has grown into more extensive notice, in the literary world, as the editor and reputed *author* of several amusing publications which have been well received by the public.

Mr. Graves is a younger son of the late Richard Graves, Esq. of Mickleton, in the northern extremity of the county of Gloucester, where he was born in the year 1715. His father was esteemed a very learned man, and a good antiquary, being honoured with the appellation of "Gravesius Noster" by Mr. Thomas Hearn, the Oxford antiquary; and Mr. Ballard, who wrote the lives of "The Learned Ladies," speaks highly of him, in a manuscript letter,* preserved in the Bodleian Library, as "a gentleman endowed with every good quality, admirably skilled in the Roman and British antiquities, an excellent historian, antiquary, and

* See Dr. Nash's History of Worcestershire, vol. i. p. 199.

medalist;" and adds, "that he had made vast collections towards the history and antiquities of that part of the vale of Evesham, where most of his estates lie, which he had collected, at great pains and expense, from Doomsday-Book and from the manuscripts and records in the Tower and divers other places. Those papers, after his death, came into the hands of his friend, James West, Esq. late president of the Royal Society, at whose decease they were sold, in 1772, to the Earl of Shelburne." He died in September, 1729, and has an elegant epitaph, in the church at Mickleton, written by his friend Mr. West.*

The Rev. Richard Graves, the subject of this article, received the first part of his classical education under a Mr. Smith, the curate of the parish, who, probably, to please his father, made him read Hesiod and Homer at twelve years of age, and at whose house he reckoned, among his school-fellows, Mr. Howard Hastings, the father of the celebrated governor-general of Bengal.

At about the age of thirteen, Mr. Graves was sent to Abingdon, in Berkshire, then a public school; thence, when he was turned of sixteen, he was chosen scholar of Pembroke-College in Oxford.

Soon after he went to reside at college, he was invited to a small and sober party of young men, who amused themselves in an evening in reading

* Mr. James West, Mr. Graves, and a few more, contributed greatly to bring the study of the Saxon and English antiquities into vogue at that period.

Greek,

Greek, and drinking water.* Here he continued six months; and they read over Epictetus, Theophrastus's Characters, Phalaris's Epistles, and such other Greek authors as are seldom read at school. After shifting from one party or set of company to another, in which colleges are usually divided, Mr. Graves became attached to Mr. Shenstone and a Mr. Anthony Whistler, an ingenious young gentleman of a good family and genteel fortune in Oxfordshire. These three met almost every evening; and, as he says, read plays and poetry, Spectators and Tattlers, and other works of easy digestion, and "sipped Florence wine the whole summer."†

But, as a scholarship of Pembroke afforded a very small supply towards the expense of an university-education, Mr. Graves tried his fortune at All-Souls' College, where he was elected fellow, in 1736, by the interest chiefly of Mr. Wood, of Littleton, Middlesex, then likewise a fellow of the college; and who, last year, celebrated his *ninetieth birth-day*, but is since dead.

Here he became particularly intimate with Sir William Blackstone,‡ who followed him, within two or three years, from the same college.

* At the head of this party was Dr. Dumaresque, afterward chaplain to the factory at Petersburgh, and now, in his eighty-eighth year, settled on a living in Somersetshire.

† See "Recollections," printed for Dodsley.

‡ Perhaps none of the friends or biographers of Sir William was better qualified to speak justly and accurately of his comprehensive genius than Mr. Graves, or is better able to offer more honourable

Soon after Mr. Graves was chosen at All-Souls, instead of pursuing his theological studies, as he had intended, he conceived the idea of studying physic, which he thought a more *genteel* profession; and, as preparatory to that study, went through two courses of anatomy, in London, with that celebrated anatomist Dr. Nichols. But, at the end of the second course, he was attacked by a nervous fever which had been some time coming upon him. After the lecture, the Doctor took him into his study, and read to him his case in Hoffman. "There, (says he,) now go to bed, and *sweat* there these six weeks." — This he literally did; but, in spite of assafœtida volus, "and all the *cordial* medicines of the shops," nature was so far exhausted, that, if another physician, who was called in, had not ordered him a glass of sack every day and a toast, he could not have survived the experiment.

This severe discipline, the effects of which he never thoroughly recovered, left him in so languid a state, that he thought fit to relinquish the medical line, and resume the study of divinity; and, in 1740, took orders. Mr. Graves's elder brother was acquainted, at the Temple, with Mr. Fitzherbert, the father of the late Sir William Fitzher-

honourable testimony to the erudition, genius, and judgement, of this great man in every branch of science as well as the law. The familiar friendship, indeed, which subsisted from the earliest period of their lives, to the death of that illustrious judge, made him competent to speak of every useful regulation, in which he was engaged, in every department of the college and the university.

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bert, and of Lord St. Helen's, who was going to settle on his estate at Tissington, in Derbyshire; and, having a donative in his gift, wished to have a clergyman with him in the house as a companion: of this offer Mr. Graves gladly accepted.

As Mr. Fitzherbert was a man of the most amiable manners, Mr. Graves had an opportunity of enjoying the highest pleasures of society in his house, where Mr. Charles Pratt (afterwards Lord Camden) and many other young men of distinguished rank and abilities were frequent visitors.

When Mr. Graves had been about three years in Derbyshire, he was coming, by turn, into office in the college, and, therefore, wished to get a curacy nearer to Oxford. But, before he left his situation with Mr. Fitzherbert, he went with Mr. Seward (the father of Miss Anna Seward and the publisher of Beaumont and Fletcher) to make the tour of the north; and, while at Scarborough, walking in the street, he was accosted by an old clergyman, with an immense beaver and a long cravat, who, after surveying him with great attention, asked him if his name was not Graves; and, being answered in the affirmative, said he had been making inquiries after him for these three weeks; that his brother had told him, he wanted a curacy near Oxford, which he had procured for him; but that, if Mr. Graves did not wait on the gentleman, near Newbury, in Berks, within a week or ten days, it would be otherwise disposed of. The old gentleman, who thus interested himself in Mr. Graves's behalf, was Dr. Samuel Knight,

a distant relation, the author of the Life of Erasmus and Dean Collet, and then archdeacon of Berkshire, who, four or five years before, had taken Mr. Graves to the chaplain's table at St. James's; but, as he had hardly ever seen him, except at that time, he did not recollect his person.

We have been the more minute in relating this trifling event, because on this apparently-fortuitous meeting depended the future condition of Mr. Graves's whole life. As the parsonage-house, on this curacy, was very indifferent, and Mr. Graves found it very uncomfortable living there alone, he prevailed on a gentleman-farmer to take him as a boarder. The farmer had daughters grown up: the youngest was not yet fifteen, very handsome, good-natured, and unaffected. A fellowship of All-Souls is so desirable a thing, and Mr. Graves was so far from entertaining any thoughts of marrying, that he had, a very few years before, declined accepting a proposal, which, he had reason to suppose, would have been agreeable to each family, of a young lady, whose portion was a good living and an agreeable situation.

Being, however, now off his guard, the artless simplicity of this young nymph gained insensibly upon his affections; and, before he was aware, he became so fascinated by her attractions, that, however indiscreet such a proceeding really was, he married, and resigned his fellowship. He had now thrown himself on the wide world, with a slender, younger brother's, fortune, and a curacy of fifty pounds a year; which, with a very neat

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but small house, was offered him by an acquaintance, a most worthy and respectable man, of a good private fortune, near Reading, but in Oxfordshire.

As Mr. Graves had highly displeased his elder brother, by resigning his fellowship, and by so imprudent a match, he had at this time no prospect of bettering his condition. A series, however, of unexpected and highly-improbable incidents counteracted the effects of his indiscretion.

After about two years residence on this curacy, he was informed that a living in the neighbourhood was vacant, and was advised to apply to his friend Sir T. H——, of Langley, to procure it for him. Although Mr. Graves had no reason to think that Sir T. for particular reasons, would apply to the Chancellor, in whose gift the living was, yet he did not fail to make him a visit on the occasion, which terminated as he expected. About a month afterwards, however, Sir T. meeting a friend of his,* Mr. Skrine, who had then a vacant living in his gift, and was distressed for a proper person to be presented to it, fortunately recollected Mr. Graves's request, and proposed him accordingly; and Mr. Graves having been formerly known to Mr. Skrine at Oxford, he found no difficulty in obtaining the presentation. This living was the rectory of Claverton, in Somersetshire, where Mr. Graves came to reside in 1750, and from which he has never been absent a *month*, at *one* time, in a period of forty-nine years. This little piece of preferment

* Mr. Skrine, father to the accomplished Lady Clarges.

contributed so much to Mr. Graves's happiness, that he seldom mentions the subject without expressing a grateful sense of the superintending care of Providence, in directing this seemingly-fortuitous concurrence of circumstances to so desirable an event.

As Mr. Graves was under the necessity of educating his own children, he took under his care other young gentlemen, and continued that employment above thirty years; and some of his pupils have since made a very respectable figure in the world.

In the year 1763, Mr. Graves was presented to the living of Kilmersdon, in addition to that of Claverton, through the interest of Ralph Allen, Esq. of Prior-Park, who also procured him a scarf from Lady Chatham. When he waited on her Ladyship, at Hayes, on that occasion, she condescended to examine the present Lord Chatham and Mr. Pitt, in French, before him. The latter was then about five years old, and answered every question in a manner that astonished the visitor, and gave striking marks of those splendid talents which now distinguish our prime-minister.

While Mr. Graves was in town, he received the news of Mr. Shenstone's death, and that he was, in conjunction with Mr. Robert Dodsley, appointed one of his executors. Mr. Shenstone's will was very short and clear; but, on consulting a country-attorney on the subject, he started six or seven questions to be laid before counsel. The principal was, that, having left his housekeeper

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annuity of thirty pounds, *to be paid half-yearly*, was *doubtful* whether it meant thirty pounds ry half-year, or only thirty pounds in the whole; ugh she herself, and every one, knew the testa- s intention. The executors, therefore, were ised to put the affair into Chancery, in an *icable way*, where, after bills of survivor and er impediments, they obtained a decree in a lit- more than a space of seven years. Mr. Graves now living at Claverton, in his eighty-fourth r, healthy and active, unless what he says of iself is only a poetical flight.

" A wight there was, scarce known I ween to fame,
Who day by day to Bath's fam'd city came;
Meagre and very rueful were his looks,
He seem'd as he had fed on nought but books:
His old great-coat, ' which he could ne'er forsake,
Hung half before and half behind his back.'
Full threescore springs had blossom'd o'er his head,
Yet nimble as a roebuck was his tread;
For, in his youth, he ne'er did heat his blood
With liquors hot, or high and luscious food;
Therefore his age, like frosty winter past,
Hoary, but hale and healthy to the last.
' What! walk to Bath, sir?' cries some gouty man:
' No sir,' quoth he, ' I did not *walk*, — I *ran*.'
He strolled about, and travers'd many a street,
Eftsoons some friend or dainty nymph would greet.
With scornful looks, by empty fops survey'd,
By scornful looks or sneers, he, undismay'd,
On matters deep or mused or seem'd to muse;
Then made a halt, then read or heard the news;
Bought some old book or print perchance, and, then,
Small bus'ness done, he travell'd home again.
Such is the life of man, with busy face,
On trifles bent, he strolls from place to place;

With

With various scenes of happiness amus'd,
By turns applauded, and by turns abus'd.
To Sorrow's school sent weeping from the womb,
Spends his short span, then hastens to the tomb.
Life's but a morning lounge, unless confin'd
To duty's path, and useful to mankind."

REVERIES OF SOLITUDE.

As he looks upon *repletion* as the principal cause of most, if not all, the diseases incident to mankind, his antidote is not merely temperance, but rigid abstinence, and even fasting on frequent occasions. *Exercise*, he thinks, is expedient, but *temperance* is *indispensably* necessary.

Mr. Graves's first publication was, "The Festoon, or a Collection of Epigrams, with an Essay on that Species of Composition." The fate of which essay is remarkable. A silver medal having been announced, for the best essay on that subject, by the proprietors of a periodical work, a journeyman-apothecary, in Bath, did Mr. Graves the honour of adopting this essay as his own; and had the medal adjudged to him for the performance. On the plagiarism being discovered, however, the medal was sent to Mr. Graves.

In 1786, came before the public, a work, in one volume, called "Lucubrations in Prose and Rhyme." This was given under the feigned name of the *late* Peter of Pomfret; so the author called himself, on account of his family coming in the last century from Yorkshire. Both the foreign and domestic critics spoke of this production with deserved respect.

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In 1772, Mr. Graves was the *editor* of the Spiritual Quixotte, of which he gives the following account:—that, although the editor was not the best of all possible preachers, yet his parishioners were so well satisfied with his doctrine, that they regularly attended the service every Sunday. But, after a little time, a journeyman-shoemaker, from Bradford, came into his parish, and brought with him a large congregation, and preached and sang psalms in a large old house; and, thenceforth, he found his church almost deserted, and his flock seemed to treat him with much less respect than they had before done.

On Mr. Graves's going to the meeting, and reminding the preacher, that, as the house was not licensed, he was liable to a penaly of 20*l.* he desired to preach there for half a year, that it might be seen which could convert most drunkards and sinners of every description. He then asked Mr. Graves what was his definition of faith? and behaved with very great insolence and impertinence, but never repeated his visits more.

The author of the Spiritual Quixotte acknowledges that he was actuated by some degree of spleen in commencing that work; and (as he says) he by no means thinks "*ridicule* the *proper test of truth*;" but, the more he reflected on the pernicious tendency of such irregular proceedings to society, the more he thought himself warranted in his endeavours to expose those itinerant teachers, who aimed at rendering the regular clergy contemptible in the eyes of their parishioners, and their

their instructions useless. His next publication was, " A Translation from the Italian of *Galateo*, or a Treatise on Politeness, by De la Casa, Archbishop of Benevento." He then published " *Columella*, or the distressed Anchoret," which he calls " A Colloquical Tale," to shew the probable ill consequence of a young man, designed by his education for some useful profession, or more elevated situation in life, retiring in the vigour of youth to solitude and indolence in the country.— Having now gained some degree of celebrity, he was encouraged by Mr. Dodsley to publish two volumes of poetical pieces (which went through two or three editions) under the title of " Euphrosyne." Mr. Graves makes many apologies, in his writings, for this habit of " rhyming;" and says, it is as hard to be subdued as a habit of swearing or drinking, and is almost inclined to think, man is a rhyming as well as a reasoning animal.* He imputes this, in some measure, to his intimacy with Mr. Shenstone in his youth, and the seductive charms of Lady Millar's Bath-Easton Myrtle in his maturer years.

As to the " Sorrows of Werter," of which Mr. Graves has been said to be the editor, we understand, he only gave Mr. Dodsley the manuscript at the request of a particular acquaintance, and that he does not even know who was the translator, though he suspected the translation to have come from the pen of a very ingenious person of his friend's acquaintance.

* See Reveries of Solitude, p. 90.

" Eugenius,

"Eugenius, or Anecdotes of the Golden Vale," a narrative of real facts somewhat embellished.

"Recollections"* of some particulars in the life of Mr. Shenstone, in a series of Letters to W. Seward, Esq. F. R. S. 1788.

* "Recollections," &c. — These letters Mr. Graves published in 1788, in consequence of what Dr. Johnson says, "that Mr. Shenstone had not a comprehensive mind, or active curiosity, or any value for those branches of knowledge which he himself had not cultivated;" than which nothing can be farther from the truth. See page about 180; for, we have not the book at hand.

We recollect, however, one or two remarkable traits in Mr. Shenstone's character. One is, that, even at the age of eighteen, nothing could have bribed him to depart from the dignity of his deportment so far as to join in a country-dance. Another was, that he refused to transport a man, with five children, for robbing his fish-pond, suggesting the *policy* of substituting some indelible mark of *infamy* in the place of capital punishments, which was an original idea in him, having never read Beccaria, or any book on the subject.

The following lines were written when very young, and were never before printed:

While round, in wild rotations hurl'd,
These glittering forms I view,
Methinks the busy restless world
Is pictur'd in a few.

So may the busy world advance,
Since thus the Fates decree;
It still may have its busy dance,
Whilst I retire with thee.*

The principal object of the little volume of Shenstonian anecdotes, which Mr. Graves published under the name of "Recollections," was, as we have observed, to vindicate him from the unjust censure of Johnson, and from Grey's ridicule, which Mason, who was jealous of him as a gardener, so unsuccessfully published.

* Meaning the ingenious Smith, whose urn is the subject of his fourth elegy.

"Plexippus

" Plexippus on the Aspiring Plebeian," by the same author.

" The Rout," in a letter from a young man in town to his friend in the country.

" Fleurettes," a translation of Archbishop Fénélon's Ode on Solitude, and other French authors. Inscribed to Mrs. Montague.

" The Life of Commodus," from the Greek of Herodian.

" Hiero," on the condition of royalty, from Xenophon.

" The Meditations of Antoninus, from the Greek. Inscribed, by permission, to the late Honourable and universally-lamented Edward James Eliot."

" The Reveries of Solitude." Consisting of Muscipula, and other pieces in verse. Printed by Mr. Cruttwell, in Bath; and sold by Mr. Dilly, in London.

" The Coalition, or Rehearsal of the Pastoral Opera of Echo and Narcissus." Inscribed to the Honourable Miss Tracy.

Mr. Graves has also very lately, we find, published a small octavo volume of Sermons on various Subjects, inscribed to Sir Walter James, Bart. with a preface, in which " he thinks it necessary, from a mere regard to decency, after publishing so many volumes of a merely amusing kind, to give this proof, (such as it is,) that he has not been totally inattentive to his profession." We do not find that Mr. Graves has published any thing else, except a small poem called " *The Farmer's Son,*"

as

is a counterpart to Mr. Anstey's "Farmer's Daughter," a most affecting tale, in the ballad-metre.

In a brief summary account, (comprehending at once a list and character of pieces,) which has been furnished us by a sensible correspondent who has the honour to be acquainted with Mr. Graves, and the merit to deserve it, it is truly observed, that his "Love of Order" is his longest and most methodical poem; and the "Invitation to the Feathered Race" one of the most sweet; that his Epigrams have great point; his Epitaph for Quin elegantly turned and truly moral; and the "Hogs of Bristol," with much satire, mingles an equal share of pleasantry. The Compliment to the late Archdeacon of Bath has never been excelled. Wishing to retire to some of the villages near Bath, from the heat of the weather and buzz of company, to seek a retreat for himself and his muse, he says,

"At Kelston, she would wish to sing,
And play whene'er I teaze her;
Still by the pensive Muse I'm told,
Those woods were made for *Cæsar*."*

"At Newton, she would wish to sing,
Good rector! but, I fear,
Regard for you, a crowd will bring,
And make a city there!"†

The conversation of this venerable man is agreeably zested with that epigrammatic turn which points

* Sir Cæsar Hawkins. † See Euphrosyne, 2 vol.

his

his writings of the lighter kind; and, being accompanied by constant good-humour, renders him every where an acceptable companion, his colloquial impromptus being frequently as happy as the *jeu d'esprits* of his pen, while both are the unmeditated effusions of a still sportive fancy and guileless heart.

His personal figure is very happily caught by the annexed etching; and, even at this comparatively-patriarchal age, he has the easy air, light step, and brisk movement, of a stripling. He has, indeed, always been remarkable for his activity, and was generally to be seen in a compromise pace betwixt a walk and a run; which occasioned the late well-remembered Mr. Thickness to say, pleasantly, that "Mr. Graves would be one of the most agreeable men in the world, if *he had but time;* for want of which, he only came to see you, to let you know he could not stay with you a single moment!"

Mr. Graves still resides at his Claverton retirement, and is the last of the bright association composed of the Jagos, Shenstones, Whistlers, and Somervilles, of the day. — Long may the *corner*-stone of the building still remain to remind us, that

——— "Such men were,
And were most precious to us."

P.

WILLIAM

UNIV. OF MICH.

To face Page 400.

Public Characters, 1799-1800.

WILLIAM SHIELD, ESQ.

(COMMUNICATED BY MR. THOMAS BUSBY.)

GENIUS is not always to be estimated by the precise degree of merit discoverable in its productions: to decide justly on individual talent, it often becomes necessary to take into the account the disadvantages it has encountered, and the obstacles it has overcome; to throw into the same scale the works, and the occasional embarrassments of the author, and to judge by what he has produced in unfavourable and discouraging situations, what he probably would have effected under circumstances more auspicious to his views and inclinations. To these considerations the subject of the present memoir is particularly entitled. Mr. Shield, by the intrinsic power of genius, has borne down every opposition of accident or fortune, and has raised himself into high and justly merited distinction in that path to which nature propelled and fitted him.

Mr. Shield was born in the year 1754, at Swalwell, in the county of Durham. His father, whose profession was that of a singing-master, was a man much and generally esteemed for his personal integrity, and admired by the cognoscenti of his neighbourhood for his professional excellence. Soon after the birth of his son William, he removed to South Shields; and

T. Gillet, Printer, Salisbury-Square.

such was his musical repute, that his practice, even in that obscure situation, embraced the tuition of nearly a hundred scholars.

William discovered so early a taste for music, that his father began to teach him the violin when he was but six years of age; and, in the short space of a year and a half, he made so extraordinary a progress as to be able to perform Corelli's fifth work; although, in the mean while, much of his time was occupied in practising the harpsichord, on which instrument he made a considerable progress, as well as in the scientific exercise of his voice, during which he acquired, even at that early period, so perfect an acquaintance with the several cliffs as to be able to read them with facility. A circumstance in direct opposition to the prevalent report, that Mr. Shield is wholly a self-taught musician, and did not enter upon the study of his art till he had considerably advanced in life. William had only reached his ninth year when he had the misfortune to lose his parent and tutor, who left a widow with four children.

The boy was so partial to the practice in which he had made so uncommon a progress, as to be greatly solicitous to continue it, and to render music his fixed profession; but this propensity was thwarted by the constant ridicule with which he heard the profession of a *fiddler* treated in a sea-port town; and, on his proposing to relinquish it, three several employments were offered for his choice, and he had the liberty of becoming either a sailor, a boat-builder, or a *barber*. Of these, the latter was preferred by his mother's

mother's friends, because his fingers had already been used to *nice* work: the hand hitherto employed in drawing the *bow* was, they thought, well fitted for wielding the *razor*; but William's mind, like that of his sea-port companions, having then but one idea of manhood, could no more brook the becoming a *barber* than a *fiddler*, and decided in favour of boat-building: he was accordingly bound apprentice to Edward Davison, then living in the vicinity of South-Shields. His master kept him pretty close to the practice of his new profession; yet was so far indulgent to his favourite amusement as not to object to his continuing the cultivation of his musical talents at proper intervals; and Shield, in the third year of his articleship, occasionally turned his harmonic abilities to pecuniary account.

Soon after the expiration of his indentures, he resolved to quit boat-building, and to adopt music as his profession. Fortunately for young Shield, the celebrated theorist Avison lived in the neighbourhood, and he enjoyed the great advantage of receiving lessons in *counter-point* from that profound master. Under so able a tutor such a mind as Shield's could not but make a rapid advancement; and having grounded himself in the principles, as well as practice, of his art, he went upon a musical expedition to Scarborough, whither he was invited by his intimate friend Cunningham, the well-known pastoral poet, several of whose songs he had sett to music at South-Shields, the melodies of which were greatly admired for their expression and simplicity. At Scar-

borough his talents soon became distinguished; he acquired the situation of leader of the theatrical band, and the principal concerts; and obtained the intimacy and friendship of most of the respectable inhabitants of the town and its vicinity. Soon after the death of his tutor, Mr. Avison, the surviving son of that great master engaged Mr. Shield as leader at the Durham theatre, and at the Newcastle concerts. Returning, at the recommencement of the season, to Scarborough, he became acquainted with Borghi and Fischer, both performers of acknowledged merit, who advised him to seek a wider sphere for the display of his talents; and pressed him to come to London. He therefore repaired to town; and these gentlemen made so favourable a report of his abilities to Giardini, then leader at the Opera House, that it procured him an engagement in that orchestra; and Mr. Cramer, who at this hour entertains the highest esteem for Mr. Shield, was so sensible of his merit, that when that great performer succeeded Giardini as leader, he immediately raised him in the orchestra.

Mr. Shield, on account of the indisposition of Mr. Bulkeley, was one season leader of the band at Colman's theatre. At that time the Rev. Mr. Bate (now Bate Dudley) wrote the pleasant little after-piece of the *Flitch of Bacon*, and in his great partiality to the talents of Mr. Shield, applied to him to sett it to music: but Dr. Arnold being the regular composer to the theatre, a delicacy highly honourable to Mr. Shield's feelings rendered him desirous to decline the undertaking. However Mr. Bate threatening to withdraw

withdraw the piece unless Mr. Shield were the composer, he at length complied, and to Mr. Bate Dudley's musical discernment, and generous compulsion, the town is in a great measure obliged for its acquaintance with Mr. Shield's high talents in composition. His time continued to be occupied some while longer in assisting at the great concerts; such as Bach and Abel's, and La Motte's, for which only first-rate performers were qualified, when Mr. Harris, manager of Covent-Garden Theatre, made him the offer of an engagement as regulator of the band, and composer to the house: a situation which he accepted and filled with much success. However, a difference between that gentleman and him, on a pecuniary point, induced the composer not long after to resign his new station.

He now resolved to make use of his leisure, by visiting that region of the melodious art, Italy: a school in which he had long wished to study, and where he made himself certain of quickly giving the *finish* to his talent. In August, 1792, he accordingly quitted England, accompanied by the ingenious Mr. Ritson, to whose abilities and industry the public owe the restoration of many valuable productions of the British lyric muse. The first place of consequence at which he stopt on the continent, was *Paris*; whence he went to *Lyons*, to *Chambery*, *Turin*, *Milan*, *Lodi*, *Piacenza*, *Parma*, *Modena*, *Bologna*, *Florence*, and *Rome*. Nothing worthy the notice of a superior mind escaped his attention at these places; yet music never ceased

to be the primary object of his enquiry; nor did the great masters any where remain unvisited.

At Rome he met with Sir William Hamilton and his Lady, whose attention to him did honour to their regard for genius roving in search of science. Prince Augustus also noticed him in the most flattering manner. It was here that he contracted an intimate friendship with that justly celebrated landscape painter, Mr. More, who shortly after died, and left him to lament the loss of a sincere friend and most endearing companion. After receiving lessons every day for two months, and deriving that general information, and particular instruction, for which he left his native country, he quitted Italy, and took his direct road to England. On his return, he renewed his engagement at Covent Garden Theatre, which did not long continue before another misunderstanding took place between him and the manager, which ended in his entire relinquishment of the situation. He has since been engaged in the prosecution of a work deeply scientific and important: the great object of which is, to facilitate the acquisition of the harmonic art, by simplifying the laws of harmony, and divesting the science of that forbidding complexity which deters so many from venturing into the labyrinth.

The merits of Mr. Shield as a composer are, in *general* way, universally known and acknowledged yet, a few remarks on his *particular* excellencies will not, I presume, be unacceptable to the reader.

His style, generally speaking, is simple, neat, and

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though correct, unaffectedly easy. We find the notes of every *part* in their proper and best places, without the parade of intruded learning; and his passages never quit the path of nature in search of unmeaning flourish and *extravaganza*. His airs are generally sweet and attractive; often original, and always illustrative of the poet's idea. His symphonies and accompaniments are, with few exceptions, so incorporated in the melody, in point of affinity and congeniality of character, as to mark his knowledge of their true use and design. His *divisions* are flowing, seldom far-fetched, and not unfrequently formed in the very spirit of the air they are meant to embellish; a propriety rarely found in his contemporaries. His bases, though not always the choicest that might have been selected, are respectably arranged, and in no instance, that I recollect, betray the want of information in the established laws of composition. In his overtures we find great variety and readiness of conception. Spirit, vigour, tenderness, and pathos exhibit themselves in turn; and his *scores* universally bespeak a thorough acquaintance with the powers of the *band*, as well as much judgment in *effect*. The reader, by combining these requisites, will form some idea of the *Herculean* task of good composition; and, by attributing them to Mr. Shield, will do justice to that gentleman's genius, taste and science.

But estimable as Mr. Shield may appear as a musician, from this just comment on his professional

merit, he has, as I every where learn, still stronger claims to approbation from the excellence of his private character. He is a kind husband, an attentive son, and a sincere friend. Tenderness, benevolence, honour, and innocent conviviality are the predominant characteristics of his heart; and useful intelligence, readiness of conception, and solidity of judgment form the distinguishing features of his mind.

Mr. Shield had been many years married, and has often been heard to remark that he ought to be the happiest of mortals at home, because he has the best of wives, and that he considers the power he possesses of contributing to the support of his mother as one of the greatest blessings heaven could have bestowed upon him.

Of the *quality* of his compositions I have spoken at large, and to the best of my judgment; their *quantity* or number will be found in the following list:—

The Flitch of Bacon,	The Highland Reel,
Rosina,	The Farmer,
Lord Mayor's Day,	Love in a Camp,
The Poor Soldier,	The Crusade,
Robin Hood,	The Woodman,
Friar Bacon,	Marian,
Fountainbleau,	The Picture of Paris,
Omai,	The Enchanted Castle,
The Choloric Father,	The Czar,
The Magic Cavern,	Oscar and Malvina,
The Noble Peasant,	Hartford Bridge,

Sprigs

Sprigs of Laurel, Arrived at Portsmouth,
Travellers in Switzerland, The Lock and Key,
The Midnight Wanderer, Abroad and at Home,
Netley Abbey, The Italian Villagers.
Chorusses, dances, dirges, glees, songs, &c. &c.

Lambeth, Sept. 1799.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE YONGE, BART. K. B.

SIR George Yonge having devoted these forty-five years past to a public life, is justly entitled to a niche in these biographic illustrations.

He received his education at Eton College, from whence, to complete his studies, he was sent to Leipsic, where, by uncommon diligence, he enriched his mind with much valuable knowledge.

His father, the celebrated Sir William Yonge, was a character well known in the political history of the last reigns. His eminent abilities, and talent for speaking, with the exquisite melody of his voice, attracted general notice, rendered him a valuable supporter of the minister, and procured those honourable situations which have since been possessed by his son.*

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* On a great augmentation of the naval and military force being moved for in the House of Commons in 1724, Sir William, then Mr. Yonge, was appointed by the ministry to oppose the powerful

A circumstance respecting Sir William's voice, rather uncommon, we shall just notice, which is, that its sweetness of tone continued unimpaired, though he had the misfortune to lose the whole of his teeth. He was an elegant, well-bred man, a scholar, a poet, and an affectionate father. He was not a little proud of the well-directed application of his boy, sparing no pains to qualify him for that political sphere to which rank, and other propitious circumstances, intitled him to look forward.

His father dying, Sir George Yonge was very early called to act as one of the legislators of his country. In the year 1754, being then just of age, he was chosen member for Honiton in Devonshire: a borough represented by his ancestors for a series of years, and where, from local interest and attachment,* he came in not only independent, but possessed influence enough to bring in the other representative. A person thus circumstanced became worthy of the minister's attention.

During his residence abroad, his time was not

powerful arguments advanced by the celebrated Mr. Shippen against the measure. For some particulars of Mr. S. consult Rev. Mr. Coxe's "Memoirs of Sir Robert Walpole, 3 vols. 4to. 1798."

* This verifies a remark of the late Dr. Johnson's, "that a very rich man, from low beginnings, *may buy* his election in a borough; but *cæteris paribus*, a man of family will be preferred. People will prefer a man for whose father their fathers have voted, though they should get no more money, or even less. This shews that the respect for family is not merely fanciful, but has an actual operation."

wholly

wholly engrossed by his private studies. To initiate himself into a knowledge of the world he travelled, and, we believe, some diplomatic minister took him under his patronage.

During his attendance in parliament, many great and important discussions were brought forward, and, as he constantly grounded himself in the argument of the several topics in agitation, we have every inducement to conclude that he voted from conviction.

In the year 1766, he was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Admiralty.

From the year 1754, until the general election in 1796, he continued to represent Honiton; *then* he declined offering himself as a candidate, and, on that occasion, was complimented with an appropriate address from his former constituents, expressive of their regret, and testifying their high sense of his long and faithful services.

Considering his life as devoted to senatorial duties, he has well acquainted himself with the principles of government, and the nature of civil liberty. He opposed Lord North's administration, and, on most occasions, his name will be found as the people's friend, and a friend to every measure that tended to advance the real dignity and happiness of his country.

When the amiable Marquis of Rockingham came into power, he was called on to make a part of the administration; indeed an hereditary claim seemed to point him out as intitled to fill the very honourable station of Secretary at War, and accordingly, early

early in the year 1782, he was appointed to that place, which was enjoyed by Sir William Yonge, his father, in the year 1735.

In April, in the same year, he was made one of the Vice Treasurers of Ireland.

Continuing in the administration under Mr. Pitt, he supported his measures, though we do not think there was any great personal intimacy between them. During that interesting period, when the regency was in agitation, Sir George stood firm to the party of the minister.

The War Office he held with slight intermission from the year 1782, until the late appointment of Mr. Wyndham.

In 1788, he was elected a Knight of the Bath; the manner in which this dignity was conferred, proved honourable to the king, and gratifying to the subject. The expressions of grace and favour with which it was accompanied, shewed the perfect recollection his majesty had of the series of services rendered by his father and himself.

In the war department his assiduity was conspicuous, and his exertions, not confined to the mere mechanical routine of office, displayed abilities which proved him perfectly qualified for the post he filled.

On his resignation of the Secretaryship, he was appointed Master of the Mint: quitting of that office, he was recently made Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, for which station, in September 1799, he was preparing to embark with his suite—his lady remains in England.

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The talent for speaking, so conspicuous in the father, does not seem so peculiarly to attach to the son; nevertheless, on those occasions on which his powers of eloquence have been exerted, he has acquitted himself in an energetic, logical, and convincing style. But Mr. Pitt has always repressed the zeal of his adherents in this line of support, and chosen rather to take the burthen of defence on himself.

Deeply read in what concerns the manufactures and commerce of his country, no one is better theoretically qualified to advance its mercantile interests —with laudable ambition, about six years since, he was stimulated, in conjunction with most respectable connections, to introduce machinery, on a most extensive scale, to facilitate the manufactory of wool, &c. at Ottery St. Mary, in Devonshire.

We lament the failure of this great concern; yet, though the county was, previous to this spirited attempt, the most backward in the improvement and extension of its manufactories; yet since that time, several mills, on a less expensive scale, have been erected along its coast, and they have succeeded well.

Public avocation interferes with, but not wholly suspends, Sir George Yonge's correspondence with the contemporary literati, who have been ready to acknowledge the information derived from his researches: he writes with a celerity almost unrivalled, and his style is pure and correct.

Had the subject of this sketch attended as minutely to his private affairs, as he has so indefatigably to

public

public concerns, he might now have been happy in the enjoyment of a spot that was dear to his feelings—

"His patrimonial treasure, and his pride,"

and have retired, in the evening of his days, from active life, in a manner worthy of himself.

His person and address are elegant and prepossessing; of the former we have prefixed an outline, taken in the year 1790.

He was, a few months since, presented to the Borough of Old Sarum, which is the property of Lord Camelford, a place existing only in idea, and where the writ is consequently affixed to a tree in the centre of a field!

—To waste its essence in the desart air—

When Sir George Yonge has visited the country during the recesses from parliamentary duty, he has been active in advancing the local interests of his county; and, as a zealous and intelligent magistrate, has promoted whatever tended to the benefit of the district over which he presides.

He is a Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, and one of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council. He is the last male branch of his family, and has no issue to succeed him in his title.

A. M.

Devonshire, Sept. 1799.

DOCTOR

DOCTOR GARNET, M. D.

PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND PHILOSOPHY IN ANDERSON'S INSTITUTION, GLASGOW.

IN detailing the life of this erudite and industrious scholar, we will have an opportunity of paying a tribute of esteem to the late Professor Anderson, and of giving a concise sketch of an institution which promises to produce, in the part of the island where it is established, the happiest consequences to science and the useful arts.

Dr. Thomas Garnet is the son of a country gentleman, in the county of Weſtmorcland. After the usual routine of classical education, he was placed under the tuition of Mr. Dawson, surgeon, at Sedburgh, in Yorkſhire. This gentleman, besides being eminent for his professional knowledge, is reputed one of the first mathematicians in Britain, and, in fact, so great is his celebrity in this department of science, that many young gentlemen of Cambridge, previously to their taking their degrees, resort to him, in order to complete their studies. Under this able proficient and instructor, Mr. Garnet laid the foundation of his medical knowledge; and, during the four years he continued under Mr. Dawson's care, not only made a considerable progress in mathematics, but also in the branches of natural philosophy connected with them. From Sedburgh he repaired to Edinburgh, in order to prosecute his medical

dical studies; and after remaining at that celebrated university for the space of four years, took his degree there in 1788, on which occasion he published an inaugural dissertation, "De Visu." During his residence at Edinburgh he was a pupil of the celebrated Dr. Brown; and so strongly was he attached to the well known system of that eminent physician, that, in defence of it, he wrote and read a paper in the Royal Medical Society, of which he was a member. This essay was so much esteemed, that several of the students transcribed it, and the substance of it, as we are informed, was afterwards published by Dr. Gertanner, in Rozier's Journal de Physique, without any acknowledgment.

D'Alembert constantly maintained, that there is no truth except in mathematics; and it must be confessed, if the reference is confined to medicine, his position is not devoid of foundation. The perpetual revolutions in this branch of knowledge, both as a science and an art, the colossal mass of cases and experiments, and the eternal discrepancy of argument and deductions, threaten to detain it in perpetual infancy. The student weary of endless investigation, or intimidated by the stupendous alp of medical research, is eager to escape from the labyrinth of uncertainty, and, plunging into the regions of fancy, grasps some ideal theory, which, after being moulded into shape, he labours to prop by every argument his ingenuity can invent. Under the direction of a mind thus predisposed, the case and the experiment become pleasant and accommodating, and thus the

nostrum

nostrum which was meant to cure, tends only to confirm the disease. These remarks are advanced, not with any intention to depreciate medical enquiry, but with a wish to caution the student against the adoption of hypothetical theories, founded on deductions too precipitately made, and to point out the necessity of acute observation employed without intermission, and of the most wary experiment. It is to be regretted that mathematics, which habituate the mind to a regular train of deductive reasoning, do not generally form part of a medical education.

It would be extraneous to our present purpose to enquire whether the Brunonean system be true or erroneous, *grammatici certant, et adhuc sub judice lis est.* Dr. Garnet published, about two years ago, the essay we have already mentioned; and that early production of his pen, with some additions dictated by his maturer judgment, now bears the title of a Lecture of Health. Soon after he left Edinburgh he visited London, where he applied himself to the study of anatomy, and attended the practice of the hospitals with that assiduity which marks his character. He had now attained that period of life which rendered it necessary to think of forming some permanent establishment, and, with this view, he formed the design of settling in Yorkshire. In the mean time he spent a few months in the neighbourhood of Leeds, during which he analized and published his analysis of the Horley Green water, near Halifax. On the death of Dr. Wilson, physician, at Harrowgate, he repaired to that place, where he published,

in the year 1791, an analysis of the spa there, lately discovered in the garden of the Crescent Inn; and in the year 1792, an analysis of all the waters at Harrowgate, with an account of their medical properties, and directions concerning their use. This work, which has gone through three editions, is an indispensible *vade mecum* of the valetudinary and the convalescent idler, who resort to that fashionable watering-place; and it had the effect of introducing the author to as much practice as the place and its vicinity could afford. It is now ascertained, by experience, to be a requisite for the introduction of a member of the faculty into the *haut ton*, that the candidate for public favour shall announce himself to the world by a work of merit, and that each successive candidate must attract attention by novelty, or extract applause by the display of superior talents. The happy effect of this rivalry, and ambition to surpass, is the improvement of medical science, and perpetual emulation produces daily additions to the mass of knowledge. In no department of scientific research does the *cacœthes scribendi* so strongly predominate as in the medical.

Although the success which Dr. Garnet acquired, by the publication of the last mentioned work, was the greatest possible in the situation he then occupied, the extension of his fame naturally expanded his expectation. At Harrowgate, as at every watering place, the crowd of company is only for three or four months in the summer, after which there is a total blank—no society; and, what is more serious to a medical man, no practice during winter: these considerations

considerations induced Dr. Garnet to form a design of leaving Britain, and trying his fortune in a foreign country; from which design, however, he was happily diverted. In 1795 he had married a young lady from Berkshire, with whom he had become acquainted at Harrowgate, and whose amiable disposition endeared her to all who knew her. From the flattering reception Dr. Moyse had received in America, Dr. Garnet immediately, after his marriage, resolved to cross the Atlantic; and having with that intent purchased a philosophical apparatus, he repaired to Liverpool, in order to embark for Ameriea on the first opportunity. He purposed to deliver lectures on experimental philosophy, as Dr. Moyse had done; and, if the country proved agreeable, to settle there, but if not, to return in a few years. While waiting at Liverpool for a passage, he was solicited by several gentlemen, (and, among others, by Dr. Currie) in the most flattering manner, to deliver a course of lectures on chemistry, and the subscription offered was so liberal, that he felt he could not refuse their request. He accordingly began his lectures on a week's notice, without having had leisure to make any preparation, or with any chemical apparatus in a state of readiness. These lectures met with a welcome reception; and, during this course, he began another on experimental philosophy, which was attended by an auditory consisting of several hundreds. Having completed these courses, he received an invitation to visit Manchester, where he delivered, with great success, the two course of lectures he had given at Liverpool, being more

than once constrained, although he occupied a capacious lecture room, to change it, on account of the superabundant numbers of his audience. While at Manchester he received an invitation from Dublin, where a still greater subscription was opened to induce him to visit that capital, and he had thus a prospect of receiving very liberal emoluments, when observing an advertisement relative to the lectureship of Professor Anderson's Institution, he became a candidate. Although this office afforded a permanent establishment, yet, in point of pecuniary interest, he was then in the immediate receipt of much more than the probable income from the lectureship; but a laudable wish of enjoying a situation less dependent on the caprice of fortune, and the means of improvement which a residentiary situation afforded, induced him to accept of the friendly offers of the trustees. Accordingly, instead of going to Dublin, he repaired to Glasgow, in October 1796, where he still continues. Besides a daily lecture on natural philosophy, Dr. Garnet gives a popular course of lectures on experimental philosophy, and another on what is styled the philosophy of chemistry, avoiding, as much as possible, all abstruse terms and technic phraseology, and adapting his lectures to such as have not had the benefit of a regular preparative education. Those who have visited Paris, and witnessed the crowds of both sexes who attended the lectures delivered at the Lyceum, will learn, with satisfaction, that Dr. Garnet has been attended by a very great number of ladies and gentlemen. It is with pleasure we remark a love

of

of mental improvement, in these liberal studies, gradually diffusing itself among the female sex in the northern part of our island. The courses at a University are calculated solely for professional men, but the lectures of Dr. Garnet, or Dr. Moyse, condensing the essence of science in a narrower compass, and in a manner adapted to an ordinary capacity, are perhaps of superior utility, as they powerfully contribute to the general spread of useful and ornamental knowledge.

In addition to these, Dr. Garnet this year read lectures on botany, and, we understand, has it in contemplation to give lectures on natural history. He is at present engaged in preparing for the press, a work in 2 vols. 4to. under the title of Observations made during a Tour through the Highlands, and Part of the Western Isles; from which, considering the known talents of the writer, much information may be expected. He particularly excels in mathematics and chemistry, and, in the delivery of his lectures, his manner is modest and unasuming. Ardent in scientific pursuits, to which, every moment, from the duties of his lectureship, and an extensive practice as a physician, is devoted, Dr. Garnet is a sincere friend to the civil liberty of mankind; but, like all benevolent men, whose minds are illuminated by science, stipulates, that every progressive step shall be the effect of deliberate reason, and not of sanguinary licentiousness. The literary world has much to regret, that the political contests of the day have insinuated themselves among men of letters, and

been unhappily productive of heats and animosities. As the moral character of Dr. Garnet is unexceptionable, an attempt has been made, but we trust unsuccessfully, to injure his practice and reputation, by aspersing the generous nature of his political principles: it was a mean and dishonourable attempt, dictated by the combined influence of envy, malice, and political rancour.

Notwithstanding his numerous avocations, Dr. Garnet has found leisure to communicate to the world a variety of valuable cases and essays, through the medium of Duncan's Medical Commentaries, the Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, the Memoirs of the Royal Irish Academy, and the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, of all which learned bodies he is a member. Last year he sustained a heavy loss by the sudden death of his wife, who was a woman of great amenity of manners.

Most of our readers have heard of Anderson's Institution, lately established at Glasgow; and, as it is so pre-eminently subservient to the interests of science, we consider it a debt of gratitude to its founder to give a detail of its nature and object. About forty years ago Mr. John Anderson was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy, in the University of Glasgow. In this station he had two course of lectures to deliver, the one styled the mathematical course, and the other the experimental course, wherein theory was illustrated by experiments. Professor Anderson was formed by nature to excel in the latter department, and the qualities he inherited from nature

ture were improved by his persevering industry. His person was graceful, and his elocution flowing and elegant; but as mathematical reasoning does not afford an opportunity of displaying an oratorical talent, his genius naturally led him to devote himself chiefly to his experimental course of lectures, which he rendered still more valuable by a very extensive apparatus purchased at his own expence. This liberality met with the reward it merited: his experimental course became celebrated, and the number of students, who, at the time of his obtaining the chair, amounted to about thirty, now encreased to upwards of two hundred. His lectures were much frequented by the citizens of Glasgow, and have been regarded as the principal cause whereby that flourishing city has obtained its celebrity for arts and manufactures, and its distinguished station among the trading towns of Britain.

Professor Anderson died in January 1796, and, by his settlement, vested nearly all his property in certain trustees, for the purpose of founding an academic seminary to bear the name of Anderson's University. The principal part of his bequest consisted of the valuable apparatus which he had in his experimental courses, and which was reputed to be the most compleat of any belonging to a private individual in Great Britain. The trustees are eighty-one in number, and are divided into nine classes, viz. nine tradesmen, nine agriculturists, nine artists, nine manufacturers, nine mediciners, nine lawyers, nine divines, nine natural philosophers, and nine kinsmen, each

class supplying its own vacancies by election. The visitors are likewise nine in number, viz. the Lord Provost, the eldest Baillie, the Dean of Guild, the Deacon Convener of the Trades, the Preses of the Faculty of Physicians, and the Dean of the Faculty of Procurators of the city of Glasgow, the Moderator of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, and the Moderators of the Presbyteries of Glasgow and Dumbarton. Four general meetings are held annually, and the nine Managers chosen by the Trustees, for the immediate superintendance of the institution, meet once in each month. At the first meeting of the Trustees, they resolved to open the class of Natural Philosophy, for which their experimental apparatus was so admirably adapted, and as we have already mentioned, chose Dr. Garnet to the office of Lecturer. Mr. Robert Lothian has since been appointed Lecturer on Mathematics; and as soon as the funds will admit, it is intended to increase the number of the lecturers until the institution shall embrace every branch of useful knowledge.

LORD DILLON.

THIS nobleman is descended from ancestors, a long line of whom has been distinguished for a zealous attachment to the Catholic creed. His Lordship, nevertheless, has been the warm, if not violent, partizan

partizan of the Irish Administration, by which the claim of the Catholics to an equal share in the privileges of the constitution, has been indignantly rejected. Though his Lordship possesses a very considerable estate in Ireland, yet much of his time has been spent in this country, where an assiduous pursuit of pleasure is thought to have, in some measure, hurt his fortune. An English peerage, it is said, has long been assiduously courted by this Irish Baron, and as constantly and coyly refused by the English Government. Some symptoms of opposition, which appeared two or three sessions back in his Lordship's parliamentary conduct, has been attributed to his chagrin on this subject. Those symptoms, however, soon disappeared, and Lord Dillon is again become one of the most *zealous*, though certainly not the *most able*, supporters of the Irish minister. Should the projected union between the two countries take place, it is probable his Lordship's indefatigable services will be rewarded by being made, if not an English peer, at least one of the Irish peers returned to the British Legislature. To every species of reform, in the popular representation, Lord Dillon had been a very hot opponent, until the Minister proposed *that* reform which consists in surrendering the constitution of one country to the other, in reducing the representation of Ireland from three hundred to one hundred, and throwing *that* hundred into the scale of influence in the British Commons. Of this species of reform Lord Dillon has approved and become the champion; and if he has not been able to recommend

mend it by argument or by eloquence, he, however, exerts his utmost influence as a landlord, to procure friends to the measure. His Lordship frequently speaks in the House of Peers, but there is no distinguishing trait of excellence in his manner or his matter, by which either can be designated; his language is colloquial, frequently incorrect, and never elegant; his delivery, that of a man who intended to recommend himself to notice by something else than rhetoric; and his matter generally consists of such obvious remarks as suggest themselves to the most superficial observer. On his estates, though his Lordship is said to act always with a high hand, yet he is esteemed a good and humane landlord.

RIGHT HON. ROBERT STEWARD, COMMONLY CALLED

LORD VISCOUNT CASTLEREA,

(CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE IRISH VICEROY.)

THIS is one of those singular men, who, before they attain manhood, lay by the attributes of youth; who leave behind them at school, the levity and folly, the unsuspecting openness and thoughtless generosity of unexperienced age, and come into public life fortified with all the cool caution and prudent reserve which usually are bought but by experience.

Lord Castlerea is the eldest son of the Earl of Londonderry. Before his lordship had reached his twenty-

twenty-first year, he was, at the commencement of the last Irish Parliament, returned Knight of the Shire for the County of Down. The election, in which he was supported by the wealth and influence of his father, lasted for upwards of three months, and is reported to have cost him upwards of 30,000l. He was not long in Parliament until he tried his senatorial talent: the first occasion of importance which occurred for a display of his political knowledge or rhetorical powers, was a debate on the question, whether Ireland had a right to trade to India, notwithstanding the monopoly of the British East India Company. On this question, his Lordship (then called the Hon. Mr. Steward, Lord Londonderry being then but a Baron), ranged himself with the popular party, and delivered a speech in support of the affirmative of the question, in which though he displayed the hesitation, the confusion, and the forgetfulness of a young speaker, yet gave proof of possessing considerable knowledge and a sound understanding. Opposition exulted in this supposed accession to their strength, and endeavoured to secure it by paying to the genius, eloquence, and wisdom of Mr. Steward, the most flattering compliments. It was soon known, however, that Mr. Steward had entered on public life with far other views than that of attaching himself to a party, whose numbers and power were every day dwindling into insignificance, before the increasing and triumphant influence of the Castle; or that of seeking unsubstantial popularity, by voting uniformly

formly against those who had honours and wealth to bestow. For a few sessions indeed, he did vote generally with the opposition, but even on those occasions the reasons on which his votes were founded, so far as those reasons were explicitly declared, proved him to be rather the hesitating and undecided friend of the Court, than the warm and sincere supporter of the popular cause. Mr. Steward started into public life, gifted, though yet a boy, with the most marked talent at keeping himself disencumbered with explicit avowals of political principles; a coy politician, he coquetted between the minister and the public; neither could reckon on him as a friend, nor would he give either reason to believe, but that, if properly wooed, he might, in time, be won. The growing discontents of the people, and the gradual developement of their purposes, at length made it necessary for his Lordship to assume a more decisive character; accordingly, when the system of *strong measures* was adopted by the Irish administration, in order to silence discontent by terror, or to extinguish it in blood, we find Lord Castlerea among the warmest of its friends. On the accession of Lord Camden to the Irish Viceroyalty, his Lordship was raised to the honour of a place in the Irish Cabinet, if, indeed, there can be said to be a Cabinet in Ireland, where all the motions of *that* government are created by impulse from *this*. At all events, he was honoured with a high degree of the confidence of Lord Camden, partly perhaps, because of the family connexion

connexion between his Lordship and the Viceroy*; and partly, no doubt, because the talents of his Lordship were useful to his government. On the illness of Mr. Pelham, his Excellency's chief secretary, Lord Castlerea was appointed to discharge the duties of that office until Mr. P.'s recovery; and on that gentleman retiring, either in consequence of continued ill health, or a disinclination to undergo the fatigues and anxiety of so arduous a situation, at a time of so great danger and difficulty, Lord Castlerea was, some time since, officially declared chief secretary to his Excellency, in Mr. Pelham's room. In this office, which his Lordship continues yet to hold, though his patron, Lord Camden, has been so long withdrawn from Ireland, he has conducted himself, for so young a man, with considerable ability. In the troubles of 1798, he displayed much fortitude, indefatigable assiduity, and great steadiness. But his conduct has also been marked by an inflexible severity, rarely found to accompany the ingenuousness of youth. His manners, though courtly and high, are charged with being haughty and supercilious; and it is observed of him, that, forgetting he was an Irishman when he became a minister, he no sooner set his foot within the threshold of the council-chamber than he outstripped all his predecessors, though English courtiers, in the promptitude and zeal with which he seconded the views of the British Cabinet, on his native coun-

* An affinity between the family of Lord Londonderry and Lord Camden by marriage.

try.

try. It was certainly not expected, that from an Irishman the proposal would have been first made to an Irish Parliament to annihilate the distinct independance of Ireland, and to reduce the nation, by whom and for whom they legislated into a dependant province on another country. The first proposal, however, of this measure, by my Lord Castlerea, was received with a degree of indignant scorn, which marked either that the Irish Parliament had more of public virtue than my Lord Castlerea and his friends attributed to them, or that his Lordship was but little skilled in that parliamentary management which constitutes, it is said, the chief branch of his official business.

Defeat, however, did not much disconcert the cool fortitude of his Lordship; he resumed his labours under the persevering auspices of the British Minister, to effect a measure which would so much simplify the government of this empire, by destroying the inconvenient independance of one member of it, and throwing a decisive additional weight into the scale of influence in the other. It is probable that these labours will be effective.

Lord Castlerea, a few years since, married a very amiable and beautiful woman, by whom, it is his Lordship's misfortune to have no children. The person of Lord Castlerea is tall, thin, and distinguished by an air of elegance and fashion which bespeak his rank. His voice is full and sonorous, but admitting of little variety. As a public speaker, notwithstanding an assumption of great gravity and great

great importance, he ranks but in the second class. An excellent education seems rather to have created than improved his powers.

DR. ADAM FERGUSSON.

THE writer of the following article is a native of the same village that gave its illustrious subject birth, is himself well acquainted with Dr. Fergusson, and has possessed the best opportunities of knowing his history from the beginning. However feeble, therefore, the *execution* may be, he can vouch for the *authenticity* of the narrative.

Mr. ADAM FERGUSSON sprung from the respectable family of Dunfallandy, in the highlands of Perthshire; was minister of Logierait, in the presbytry of Dunkeld. The youngest of a numerous family of children, by a lady of Aberdeenshire, whom he married, was Adam, born in 1724, at the parsonage-house. Adam received the rudiments of his education at the grammar school of the village, assisted by his father, who was himself an excellent classical scholar, and bestowed on the tuition of his son, the greater part of the time which remained after the performance of the laborious duties of a very extensive parish. Perceiving the talents of his son even at that early age, to be very strong, Mr. Fergusson determined to send him to a seminary, where, in emulation, there would be the most powerful incen-

tives

tives to call forward the energies of his mind. The school of Perth, the county town, was then in very great celebrity, under the direction of Mr. Martin, considered as the Busby of Scotland. Mr. Martin was not merely an accurate scholar and expert teacher of Latin and Greek, but a man of profound discernment into the human character. Young Fergusson soon attracted the master's peculiar attention. He perceived that mere grammatical attainment was far short of what this youth could compass, even during his school education; that he could not only apprehend and remember words, phrases, rules, and their application, but could think and reason on the subjects of his study; and display considerable invention. In the usual school exercises on the Latin language, he equalled the ablest of his school-fellows; but in another exertion he greatly surpassed any of his competitors. Subjects were, at stated periods, proposed for promoting the improvement of the advanced scholars, in composition and reasoning. In his essays on such themes, the genius of Fergusson first appeared most prominent. The writer has known several of Adam's contemporaries at school, and also other gentlemen who were educated under the same master, after he removed to the university, and these concur in declaring that the abilities and productions of Adam Fergusson were the subjects of praise, not only while he was on the spot, but long after he was gone. His essays were preserved and shewn with proud pleasure by Mr. Martin, to his literary acquaintances.

In

In October, 1739, Mr. Fergusson was sent to St. Andrews University, and particularly recommended to the learned and able Mr. Tulideph, just become principal of one of the colleges. At St. Andrews there is a considerable number of bursaries, (exhibitions,) four of which are annually bestowed at the commencement of the session, on the victors, in a competition in writing and translating Latin. The successful candidates are entitled to board at the College table for four years; the under graduate course Adam Fergusson stood first in the list of conquerors. In Scottish schools formerly boys were instructed in only the rudiments of the Greek tongue, though made so well acquainted with the Latin as to read the higher classics with extemporaneous ease. At College, therefore, the first session was chiefly devoted to the Greek language. So ardently did Mr. Fergusson apply to that study, that at the expiration of the session, he, with little difficulty, could construe Homer. During the summer recess, he tasked himself to prepare a hundred lines of the Iliad every day, and facility encreasing as he advanced in knowledge, he enlarged his performance, and before the commencement of the succeeding term, had read through the whole work. His progress in the essential parts of the Greek language was accelerated by his attention to these exclusively. He considered that tongue rather as a key to Grecian literature than to *metrical* attainments. Indeed, through life, he has never cultivated versification; he studied ancient language merely as the vehicle of

ancient thoughts, images, feelings, and reasonings*. In the second session at St. Andrews, to his classical he added mathematical studies, and soon distinguished himself as a mathematician. Logic, metaphysics, and ethics, during the following years, were added to his pursuits. At the end of his course he was esteemed superior to any of his fellow-students, in each and all of the studies we have mentioned. From a gentleman who knew him from his infancy, and attended particularly to his character and its operations during the college recesses, and who was himself very competent to mark the progress of mind, the writer learned, that at twenty years of age Mr. Fergusson had very profoundly analysed human nature, and was very thoroughly acquainted with the human character.

From St. Andrews he proceeded to Edinburgh, where a circumstance happened that tended to stimulate the exertion of his powers. Several young men having formed a connection, instituted a small

* The writer once heard some Latin conversation, between a very respectable master of an academy near London, esteemed one of the best scholars in the profession, and Dr. Fergusson. Both spoke the language with fluency and propriety in other respects, but the latter not in point of prosody. It was with difficulty that the master of the academy convinced the learned Doctor that he was erroneous in pronouncing confĕro confĕro. Although he has manifested himself to the world, to be most intimately and profoundly conversant in the history, character, genius, customs, manners, laws, and politics, of the Romans, yet was he inaccurate in their sounds; although few *men* in England could equal him in writing *sense* prose, yet many *boys* might surpass him in writing *nonsense* verses.

society

society for literary improvement and philosophical disquisition. Among these, besides Mr. Fergusson, there was Mr. William Robertson, since so eminent for historic effort; Mr. Hugh Blair, so respectable for elegant literature and composition; Mr. John Home, who has introduced the Tragic Muse to the Scottish woods; and Mr. Alexander Carlyle, the inadequacy only of whose exertions to his powers, has precluded the attainment of the same literary eminence; Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, distinguished for genius and literary exertions among the ablest youths of the circle in which he then moved, as now by his genius, legal and parliamentary efforts in the exalted station which he fills, became a member some years after its formation. In a society of young men of vigorous talents and different destinations, there was necessarily an enlarged circle of subjects of discussion. The variety and multiplicity expanded the mind; the contest of generous emulation sharpened and invigorated the faculties; while the knowledge previously necessary for their exercises, and the examination it was to undergo, increased extent and accuracy of attainment, and produced the habits of investigation. The members of the society, in whatever particulars they might severally differ, agreed in being informed, just, and able reasoners.

In his private studies, Mr. Fergusson, at Edinburgh, devoted his chief attention to natural, moral, and political philosophy. His strong, enquiring, unprejudiced mind, versed in Grecian and Roman literature, rendered him a zealous friend of rational and

well-regulated liberty. He was a constitutional whig, equally removed from republican licentiousness, and tory bigotry. Aware that all political establishments ought to be for the good of the whole people, he wished the means to vary in different cases, according to the diversity of character and circumstances; and, convinced with Aristotle, that the perfection or defect of institutions in one country, does not necessarily imply either perfection or defect of similar institutions in another; that restraint is necessary in the inverse proportion of the general prevalence of knowledge and virtue. These were the sentiments he cherished in his youth; these are the sentiments he cherishes to this day.

To divinity he applied so far as to comprehend the details, general nature and tendency of the christian system; and to understand the evidence on which it was founded, without wasting his time in the uninstructive and uninteresting frivolities of controversial theology.

In 1745, Mr. Murray, brother to Lord Elibank, applied to Mr. Fergusson to be his deputy as chaplain to the 42d regiment, then recently raised. Mr. Fergusson gladly embraced the offer; but from his age and standing, especially the latter, there was an obstacle to his immediate ordination. By the rules of the church of Scotland, a candidate for orders must have studied divinity six years before he is proposed for trials as a probationer. An exception is made in the case of gentlemen who understand the Gaelic language. The number of these being comparatively few, they are permitted to be proposed

proposed after having studied four years. Mr. Fergusson had only studied two. A presbytery would have incurred a censure by ordaining a gentleman of his standing. An act of the General Assembly was therefore necessary, and this was procured, *speciali gratia*, on the testimony of the professors, under whom Mr. Fergusson studied, who concurred in giving such a character of the young gentleman, that the Assembly admitted him to be an exception to the general rule, and ordered him to be taken on trials. Having joined the regiment, he continued with the corps during the remainder of the war, and was highly esteemed and respected by the officers and soldiers. This employment presented to Mr. Fergusson, MAN in *a different situation* from those which scholars have in modern times had an opportunity of contemplating. The learned and able General Melville, when expressing his regret, that the portions of history devoted to military narrative and description, are frequently inferior to other parts, and inadequate to the subject, assigns as a reason, that few scholars are soldiers, and few soldiers scholars*. Mr. Fergusson bestowed particular attention on the acquisition of military knowledge; and it is probably owing to the time he spent in the army that his

* This observation, formerly perfectly just, now, happily for the service, does not apply with equal force; we mean in the *regular* troops, in which general knowledge is now added to professional skill; in the *volunteer* corps, laudable as is their object, instances too often occur of their purpose being in a great measure defeated by an improper choice of men to be their officers, who are neither *soldiers nor scholars*.

exhibitions of the military character, and operations in his Roman History, are no less particular, as well as masterly, than his moral and political narratives and exhibitions. One great excellence in his Roman History may be traced to his chaplaincy. Deeply acquainted with ancient manners, having a strong and great mind, Mr. Fergusson, in his moral estimates, affixes a very high value to heroism and magnanimity, when exerted under the direction of wisdom in the cause of justice. Hence, the military character is, in his mind, a subject of great estimation. The life of a soldier he considers as frequently calling forward the most powerful energies of the head and heart. The regiment to which he belonged, Lord John Murray's Highlanders, in that war in which Britain was engaged for repressing the ambition of despotic France, particularly distinguished itself.*

Mr. Murray having retired from his office, Mr. Fergusson was appointed principal chaplain. Returning, after the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, to Scotland, he spent some years either at his father's, in Edinburgh, or the environs, enjoying the company of many of the friends of his early years, who were settled in or near the capital. When at his father's he had a peculiar pleasure in reading in the fields. There is near Logierait, a beautiful green, in the brow of a high hill, sheltered by rocks from the north and east, commanding a most delightful and romantic prospect to the west and south-east, and, on some

* Especially at Fontenoy and in Bergen-op-Zoom.

points,

points, defended from the sun as well as the winds, called the Green *Gate*, or Walk. There Mr. Fergusson, during the summer season, often spent the greater part of the day.

He afterwards rejoined his regiment, and increased in the estimation of that gallant corps, as his genius and learning became matured. About this time he applied for the living of Caputh, near Dunkeld; but, fortunately for him, the Duke of Athol, the patron, bestowed it on another candidate. Had Mr. Fergusson succeeded, that wisdom and philosophy which has so much enlightened the world, might have been wasted in an obscure corner, where there were none to comprehend or relish its excellence.* Soon after this attempt he lost his father, and appears to have had no farther thought of a living in the church, as he did not apply for that of Logierait, though somewhat more lucrative than Caputh.† Indeed the cast of his mind, or, more properly speaking, his habits of composition were little fitted for a popular audience.

* In the very same presbytery, there are now three clergymen of uncommon talents. One of them of *very* uncommon talents, who, for forty-five years, has been confined to an inconsiderable living, though, in point of genius and learning, not inferior to the illustrious Robertson.

† His father, when he found his end approaching, from a knowledge of his son's determination, urged Mr. (now Dr.) Thomas Bisset, son of a deceased friend and brother clergyman, to make application, as a vacancy must soon take place. This was accordingly done; a promise was obtained from the Duke of Athol for the gentleman in question, who holds the living to this day. Dr. Robert Bisset, of Sloane-street, is that gentleman's eldest son.

He had early imbibed a great portion of the spirit of the stoic philosophy. He could not altogether be said to be a stoic, but was and has uniformly been a peripatetic, with a strong bias to stoicism. His sermons were profound moral essays, exhibiting a philosophy, compounded of that of Aristotle and of Zeno, and, consequently, were beyond the comprehension of the majority of hearers. Indeed, in point of popularity, Mr. Fergusson was very far surpassed by common-place declaimers of fanatical rant about faith and grace, to the exclusion of virtue; thunderers who could work on the fancy by terrible images, or flippant pretty spouters who could tickle the ears with melodious nonsense.* There was, and we believe there is still, a practice in Scotland, that originated in the conventicles; at the administration of the Lord's Supper, the clergy met in clubs at the place where that holy rite was performed. Their respective parishioners followed them; and, from ten in the morning till six in the evening, were entertained with sermons† delivered from a place which they styled *a tent*, viz. two sledges, covered with canvas, standing against each other, and joined by a cross bar.

* There was, in the lowland part of Perthshire, some years ago, a clergyman so eminent in the pulpit for the exertion of his musical powers, that, when he pronounced the word *Cappadocia* the women began to sob; but when, with the true Caledonian circumflex twang, he brought out *Mesopotamia*, there was a general concert of affliction.

† These are the meetings which the poet Burns has described with such humour, as tending not only to popularity but *population*.

Standing

Standing at this bar, the ministers delivered sermons in which reason was of less consequence than roaring; the chief praise being bestowed on him who had the strongest lungs. Mr. Fergusson not being eminent for the loudness of his voice, never distinguished himself at these exhibitions. Concerning Mr. Fergusson's sermons, we shall take the liberty of copying an ancedote formerly inserted in a periodical publication. "Always benevolent, Mr. Fergusson assisted his friends with his purse as far as it went, and with his genius, which was infinitely more extensive. Sometimes he lent or presented sermons to his friends. One of these one day preached a very profound discourse on the superiority of personal qualities to external circumstances, that shewed a very thorough acquaintance with the doctrines of Plato and Aristotle. The clergyman in whose church the gentleman delivered the sermon, was at first greatly surprised at hearing such observations and arguments from a worthy neighbour, whom he well knew to be totally unacquainted with the philosophy of Plato, or any other, ancient or modern. When service was over, he paid the young man very high encomiums on his discourse—that it really much exceeded the highest expectations he had ever entertained from the talents of the preacher. That gentleman told him honestly, that he knew very little about these things himself, but that he had borrowed the discourse from his friend, Mr. Adam Fergusson."

Mr. Fergusson, in the year 1757, left the 42d regiment, procuring the appointment to his nephew, Mr.

Mr. James Stewart, since dead, while another nephew, Captain Adam Stewart, now a gentleman of great property and consideration in Perthshire, was appointed lieutenant and quarter-master. Mr. Fergusson, whose manners were those of a polished and accomplished gentleman, was extremely liked in his native country, both by those who could judge in some degree concerning his abilities, and by others who were not competent to that task. Lord John Murray,* in particular, who fancied himself a very great admirer of Mr. Fergusson's genius and learning, often spoke of it with as much confidence as if he had comprehended its nature and extent, and used to call himself the first patron of the learned Mr. Fergusson.

On leaving the regiment he became private tutor in the family of Lord Bute, in which situation he continued till the year 1759, when the professorship of natural philosophy, in the University of Edinburgh, being offered to him, was accepted. Had he continued in the family of Lord Bute till the accession of his present majesty, it is probable he might

* Cadet of a noble family in that country, of which the younger members have, with little interruption, since the Union, been representatives of the county of Perth; less eminent, indeed, for political knowledge and science, and oratorial powers, than for the rigid impartiality with which they have uniformly adhered to the minister for the time being. One of these senators was hardly ever in a minority but once; when, after having *voted with Mr. Fox for his East India Bill*, the majority for the coalition beginning rapidly to decrease, he thought it high time to join Mr. Pitt, *and voted for his East India Bill.*

have

have attained some important office in the state. Instead of an eminent literary character, he might have become an eminent political character. He himself did not regret his different destination; and though the elegance of his address fitted him for a court, his penetrating sagacity, powerful understanding, and extensive knowledge, practical as well as speculative, qualified him for the cabinet; yet was he himself more disposed to the research and contemplation of the closet. Of modern writers, none occupied his attention so much as Montesquieu. He was peculiarly conversant with the study of human nature. He investigated intellect and affection, carefully rejecting hypothesis, and adhering to phenomena.

In 1764 Mr. Fergusson was appointed professor of moral philosophy, and from that time taught what he before so completely learned. He now formed a plan of lectures, which we shall consider more minutely, when we come to the publication of his works on moral and political science. What we shall here say of it may be compressed in a few words: he thoroughly analysed and investigated the nature of man; thence deduced his duty in the various relations of social, civil, and political life, with the sources and sanctions of his duty.

In 1767 he published his Essay on Civil Society. The object of this work is to accompany man through the several steps of his progress, from his first rude efforts in policy and art; to mark the human mind advancing gradually from the perceptions of sense to the

the general conclusions of science; from the operations of sentiment and reason, to the heights of moral and political science and practice; to exhibit barbarity refining into politeness, and the savage into the philosopher. The work is divided into six parts, and each part subdivided into sections. In the first part, our author considers the question relating to the state of nature, and the principles of self-preservation, of union among mankind, of war and dissension, intellectual powers, moral sentiments, happiness, and national felicity. The history of rude nations is the subject of the second part, and those of policy and arts of the third. In treating of arts and policy, he considers the influence of climate and situation, national objects in general, and establishments and manners relating to them, population and wealth, national defence and conquest, and civil liberty; concluding with a short history of arts and literature. In the fourth part he considers the consequences that result from the advancement of civil and commercial arts. In the fifth he treats of the decline of nations, and in the sixth of corruption and political slavery. In executing this great plan of enquiry into the history of man, in all the varieties, progressions, and declensions of society, the author had full scope for exerting a powerful and profound genius operating upon an extraordinary accuracy of extent in historical and philosophical knowledge. The accession to moral and political literature and science from this work was by the ablest periodical critics, and men of erudition

erudition in general, allowed to equal that of any of his contemporaries in Scotland. The author was now ranked among the first literati of his country.

Mr. Fergusson, whom, as he about this time received his degree of doctor of laws, we shall henceforward call Dr. Fergusson, now became intimate with all the eminent scholars about Edinburgh, and many of those in London. Of the young men of talents who most highly regarded our author was Mr. Henry Dundas, who has ever since entertained a distinguished personal regard for the doctor.

Soon after the production of this work, he visited his native village of Logierait, and felt great delight in going over the various scenes of his puerile amusements and juvenile pursuits. He gratified the villagers by his perfect recollection of themselves and their families; they found their personal importance dilate by holding a place in the remembrance and attention of one whom they heard to be among the first men of the age, and their provincial and local pride to swell, when they reflected, that in this eminent man they saw an Highlander of Strathtay, and their own parish. Their pleasure was enhanced by the consideration of those of his virtues which they could themselves comprehend—his benevolence, his affability, his agreeable and condescending manners: and farther, by viewing in him the son of a clergyman whose pastoral and parental care they for more than forty years had experienced.

The same year Dr. Fergusson married Miss Burnet,

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an amiable and sensible young lady of Aberdeenshire, and niece to the distinguished Dr. Black.

The moral philosophy chair of Edinburgh was yearly rising in estimation and importance. It is generally allowed, that no lessons could be better adapted for forming the mind to habits of investigation, research, and reasoning, invigorating the powers, and enlarging the comprehension of the understanding, liberalising the sentiments, improving and directing the affections of the heart. His Institutes, or Synopsis of Lectures, published about this time, served as a compend or text-book to his students, and to others presented a general chart of science previous to the particular delineation of human nature and moral philosophy.

From 1767 to 1773 Dr. Fergusson remained chiefly in Edinburgh, and on a farm with which he amused himself in the vicinity. Difference of opinion on various important points, religious, moral, and political, did not prevent him from cultivating the acquaintance of David Hume, then returned to the capital of his native country. Some real or pretended zealots, from this intercourse, so natural between too great and liberal minds, though not viewing every subject in the same light, imputed to Dr. Fergusson a sympathy in religious opinion; an imputation to which his elevated views of rational religion, and its foundation in the attributes of the Supreme Being, are the best answer. This was, indeed, a species of charge then not unusually made by ministers

nisters of the Church of Scotland against some members of their own body; and those among the first for learning and genius. Persons by no means distinguished for acuteness in other things, were extremely sharp scented in points of heresy, at least, when any appearance of it could be charged to men of transcendant ability. Against genius, knowledge, and wisdom, they tried to make heterodoxy a *set-off*, without establishing the justness of the *items*. Debiting the adverse party's account with his alleged heresy, and taking credit to themselves for their own orthodoxy, they fancied they had balanced accounts; and thus a contemptible bigot might suppose himself equal to a Leechman, or a Fergusson.

In 1773 his literary renown procured him an offer from the friends of Lord Chesterfield of going abroad as tutor to his lordship on a settlement of 200*l.* a year for life. After an absence of a year and a half, he returned to the professorial chair. At this time the writer of this article had an opportunity of attending his lectures for two courses; they were in such celebrity, that he remembers gentlemen of rank in the literary world regularly attended them. The writer, though then very young, was so deeply impressed with their excellence, that though then not much addicted to study, he took accurate notes both of the general principles and illustrations, and can say for himself, from experience, and for others from their concurrent testimony; that from no other system of literary discipline, at any stage of their education, they received so much advantage as from the

lectures

lectures of Fergusson; that from him they learned the objects of pursuit, and the means of attainment, in moral and political science; so that if they did not succeed, it must be for want of either the power of investigation, or of its direction to these objects. The Doctor's mode of communicating his knowledge was firm, manly, and impressive, but mild and elegant; he was delicate, but justly severe, in his rebukes to the inattentive and negligent. One day that he was engaged in that part of his course that treated of the practical application of the moral qualities which he had before described, he was speaking on the folly of idleness and inattention to the business in hand, some thoughtless young men were whispering and trifling in the gallery, "Gentlemen," said he, "please attend; this subject peculiarly concerns *you*." The youths, though they had been inadvertent, far from being devoid of either apprehension or sensibility, were much more ashamed and sorry than if called to order by imperious vociferation.

The Doctor proposed, periodically, themes for discussion to his pupils. In one of these exercises the writer recollects that Lord Maitland, (now Earl of Lauderdale), peculiarly distinguished himself by an Essay on Travelling, which, with great acuteness and ability, displayed the advantages resulting to a discerning and able mind, from contemplation of man in various species of society, and their diversities of political institution and civil manners. His lordship, who could not then be above eighteen, inspired both his master and his fellow-students with a high opinion

opinion of his talents, an opinion which the exertions of his manhood, whether politically agreeable or disagreeable to either, tended most powerfully to confirm.

In 1776 Dr. Fergusson answered Dr. Price's production on Civil and Religious Liberty. The ground on which our author differed from the learned Price was the inapplicability of his doctrines to society, and to imperfect man, as known from experience. He does not, however, fail to manifest a very high respect for the talents of his antagonist, and a candid opinion of his intentions.

Meanwhile the Doctor was preparing for the public a more laborious and greater work than any which he had before presented to the world. To an ordinary reader the Roman History would have appeared exhausted; the mind of Fergusson viewed it in a different light, and as replete with materials for moral and political instruction. In 1778 his work underwent an interruption, as he was requested to become secretary to the five commissioners sent out for the purpose of offering terms of peace to the Americans. The result of this proposed negociation is too generally known to require political notice. Returning home, he resumed the charge of his class, and continued his attention to the history of Rome. In 1782 he gave to the world that work, which may well be styled the philosophy of Roman History. His object was the same as in the Essay on Civil Society—to present man as he was known from history to have always conducted himself. To appreciate the value

of Fergusson's Progress and Termination of the Roman Republic, it is necessary to consider what was wanting to this momentous subject. The labours of former writers, a great part of Livy's History, and the whole of Sallust's General History have been lost. Polybius, valuable and important as his work is, as far as it has been preserved, being both imperfect and confined to particular periods; the great Biographer of antiquity having treated of Roman affairs in only detached portions, so far as they illustrated the LIVES of his subjects, and even all those not being entire; there is extant no such entire history of Rome, from any ancient writer, as to exhibit the clear unbroken series of events, of effects and causes. In both ancient and modern times, general views of the constitution and government of Rome have been delineated by writers of ability, especially by Polybius and Montesquieu. These served as the basis of political theories, and enlarged the stock of political knowledge and science; but did not constitute a Roman history, displaying not only principle, but operation and consequence. In modern times several books have been published, professed to be histories of Rome; but not laying before us the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the Roman Republic in that masterly and instructive manner in which Gibbon presents to us the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. This was the want in literature, to supply which Dr. Fergusson undertook his work. In exhibiting Roman character and action, the author presents to us every where rise, progress, operation, and effects. In the military

tary history we see the causes that made the Romans soldiers; and the improvements produced by steady and persevering policy, in arms and in tactics, by the advances of experience, from their first contests with the different neighbouring hordes of barbarians to the perfection of the military system under Julius Cæsar. In his political reviews we have a similar series, and, through the imtermediate links, are fully able to see the connection between the first and the last, to mark processes, and comprehend results. The same observation holds as to the moral characters of the Romans, from the times of Cincinnatus and Fabricius, to those of Catiline and Clodius; while virtuous, the Romans were free and flourishing; their vices made them the slaves of a ferocious despotism. These are the great lessons which the principles and details of Dr. Fergusson's history teach. Equally masterly in the display of individual as of national character, he probes both to the bottom. Allowing to Julius Cæsar just and full credit for his extraordinary talents, he, with the generous indignation of a free man, reprobates exertions that enslave mankind.

In 1784 Dr. Fergusson resigned the moral philosophy chair, and retired on the salary of the mathematical, which was now taught by Mr. John Playfair, one of the most profound scholars of the age. Mr. Dugald Stewart was, in his moral lectures, successor to Dr. Fergusson, and has taught the class ever since.

The Doctor's principal literary employment was now in preparing for the press his lectures, which have

since informed and instructed the public under the title of the Principles of Moral and Political Science. This work considers, first, historically, "the most general appearances in the nature and state of man." Under the historical head, he considers man's place and description in the scale of being; secondly, examines the characteristics of his intelligence; thirdly, traces the steps of his progressive nature. Having established the fact of man's constitution and condition, he secondly examines the specific good incident to human nature; treats of moral law, or the distinction of good and evil; applies their general principles. These he explains under the heads of ethics, jurisprudence, and politics. The success of his investigation has not been owing merely to the powers of his intellect; but the course in which it was exercised, and the objects towards which it was directed. As to his course, he followed the road discovered and shewn by Lord Bacon, observation leading through induction to general principle; and, consequently, excluding hypothesis, as to the objects of his research, confining his enquiries into phenomena, and their general laws, instead of wasting time in fruitless enquiries after efficient causes.

The political principles and inculcations of this sage are such as naturally arise from the exercise of the understanding, deriving its materials from experience of particular governments combined with the knowledge of human nature; arguing from history, and not conjecturing from fancy. On the question whether all men have an equal right to govern, he denies

denies that any one has a right, but contends that it is useful and necessary for all, that there should be a government of which the end should be the general good, and its principal functions should be performed in those most qualified and disposed to promote that general good. "Prior to convention (he says) every one has a right to govern himself, but *not to govern any one else.* THE GOVERNMENT OF OTHERS, then, *prior to convention,* IS NOT MATTER OF RIGHT TO ANY ONE, although TO HAVE GOVERNMENT, and this purged of every person incapable or unworthy of the trust, IS MATTER OF EXPEDIENCE TO EVERY ONE."

Conceiving government to be intended for the general advantage, he, on the one hand, reprobated the old system of France, as framed, or rather jumbled together, in such a manner as to degrade human character, and make its subjects in general the wretched slaves of capricious and tyrannical despots; but the new system he reprobates as doing much more mischief than that which offended him in the old. He has not, however, actively interfered in political questions of recent discussion.

His Treatise on Moral and Political Science was published in 1793. Since that time he made a tour to Italy, with a view of collecting, in the libraries of that country, materials that he expected would be useful in a new edition of his history. The second edition is now published with considerable enlargements; but, in the discussion of political principles, without any reference to present questions or affairs.

Dr. Fergusson is not merely a speculative moral

philosopher, but a practical moralist. He is distinguished for integrity, benevolence, firmness, and those other qualities of the heart that can render the possessor amiable and estimable. Although the salaries of the Edinburgh professors are small, in order to stimulate exertions that may produce numerous and lucrative classes, the generosity of Fergusson often bestowed gratuitous admission. His own income was therefore less than it might have been; a pension from government, however, together with the returns of his works, and other emoluments, rendered him easy in his circumstances, though not opulent. His manners are those of an accomplished gentleman; his conversation is pleasing and simple, though frequently discovering, seldom manifesting, much either of his capacious genius or extensive learning. In company common-place men, fond of figuring away by talking, might, if, as such often do, they rated ability by colloquial displays, flatter themselves that they were superior to Dr. Fergusson. Great as his credit is, at the bank of genius and knowledge, he suffers his cash to lie there, to be drawn for according to his occasions, without displaying his stores for the admiration of a company. He is far from carrying about his whole stock in a card-purse. In convivial parties, Dr. Fergusson, though temperate, is not abstinent; and used to enjoy an agreeable friend with much heartiness. He is extremely hospitable. His place of residence is now Manor, near Peebles, about twenty miles from Edinburgh. He frequently visits that capital; where, and in its environs, he spends

spends most agreeable hours with Mr. Home, Dr. Carlile, Dr. Blair, Dr. Black, and other nearly contemporary friends, of whom he himself is the youngest. He has several children; of these the eldest son is a respectable advocate, the other sons doing well in other employments; and the daughters very amiable young ladies, living with himself.

Dr. Fergusson was a well-formed, active, muscular man, with handsome features, a fair complexion, and a countenance, indicating the qualities of his head and heart. The expression of his light blue eyes is rather thoughtful than animated, the serene rays of intelligence fully overbalancing the want of the lustre that results from mere colour.

There are two sets of literary men in or from Scotland, who look up either to Dr. Blair or to Dr. Fergusson, as their models; the one consisting of those who have devoted their principal attention to rhetoric and fine composition; the other, without neglecting these, have devoted themselves chiefly to history, biography, philosophical criticism, and political enquiry.

R. B.

MR. WILLIAM HAYLEY.

THE favourite adage of antiquity, that "the qualifications of a poet are the peculiar gifts of Heaven," has been sanctioned by the opinion of the most eminent critics of modern times, though it has not been

universally admitted as a position strictly conformable to the result of philosophical investigation. Certain it is, that many have acquired a distinguished name, as poets, in the republic of letters, whose productions, when nicely scrutinized by those accustomed to argue from effects to causes, cannot be considered as the emanations of genius. Among writers of this description, the subject of the present sketch ranks in the first class. He did not, like Cowley, Milton, and Pope, afford any premature display of poetical excellence. He did not, in his early years, assert his claim to inspiration, and produce any proofs of divine origin; but before he entered upon the arduous task of composition, he read much and thought more. He stored his mind with many valuable treasures of ancient and modern literature; he had, in most instances, the merit of exploring the nature of the subject he was about to celebrate, and of establishing a design in his work, without which it is impossible to proceed with order, or to produce appropriate embellishment.

Mr. Hayley, son of Thomas Hayley, Esq. of the County of Sussex, and of Miss Yeates, daughter of Colonel Yeates, member for Chichester, was born in that city, in October, 1745. In his infancy he left his father, but he received from the tender care of his mother, every attention which his situation required. He was placed, when very young, at Kingston school, but his progress in the first elements of knowledge was considerably retarded by sickness, which a constitution peculiarly delicate, was ill-

formed

formed to bear. After a short residence there, Mrs. Hayley, apprehensive that his health might be still more impaired, by too strict an attendance to scholastic duties, had him instructed under the maternal roof, in classical learning. He was then sent to Eton College, where he was more distinguished by his masters and juvenile contemporaries for benevolence of temper and mild and engaging manners, than for any manifestation of superior talents, or rapidity of improvement. His conduct, both in the hours of study and of recreation, gave abundant promise of future worth, as an individual of uncommon benignity in private life; but none of those vigorous effusions of original character escaped from him, that burst spontaneously from the fervid mind of genius, and present, in miniature, what the attentive observer fondly expects, one day, to view at full length.

He entered Trinity-hall, Cambridge, at the age of sixteen, and was, for the first time, drawn aside from his collegiate course, to celebrate, in lyric song, the birth of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. His composition on the occasion was superior to those of several of the poetasters of that day on the same subject; but such a superiority was contemptible in the opinion of a youth, whose sanguine hopes had induced him to imagine, that his ode would become the theme of national panegyric, and the object of royal patronage. His judgment, soon after, taught him to condemn the vanity of the attempt, and he even cordially joined in sentiment with those who censured

censured his maiden essay, in consigning it to ridicule and disgrace.

The ambition of poetical distinction did not, however, forsake him; he felt, that to deserve fame, something more was requisite than a mere desire to excel, circumscribed by the narrow outlines of knowledge, traced out for him at Eton and Trinity Hall. He found it necessary to collect a copious fund of intellectual wealth, and to enrich his mind with acquirements which he might combine or expand, according to the exigence of his subsequent pursuits.

From his failure in his first attempt to his marriage, in 1769, during an interval of seven years, his attention to the works of the most approved authors, was constant and laborious. He minutely studied the matter, the sentiments, and styles of the favourite poets and orators of Greece and Rome. He followed the progress of the art of poetry, with slow, but sure steps, from the revival of literature in Europe, to modern times. He perused and digested the most judicious works of criticism, without sacrificing his own conviction to received opinions, and confining his reason within the trammels of magisterial authority. In the French and Italian languages, he found inexhaustible sources of instruction and fancy, and he became a perfect master of the various beauties of Corneille, Racine, Rousseau, Voltaire, Dante, and Tasso. He also cultivated his taste for the fine arts with success, and made himself conversant in the principles of statuary and painting.

On his marriage, in 1769, with Miss Ball, daughter of the Dean of Chichester, he settled in the metropolis, whence he retired to his country seat in Sussex, after a residence of five years. His mind found no delight in the gay scenes of fashionable life, and as he fancied himself a poet, he determined, by further cultivation, to realize the fond hopes which he began, with some confidence, to entertain of his powers. The two first years which he passed in retirement, were alternately dedicated to the innocent charms of rural enjoyment, and to the practice of the poetical theory which he had been so indefatigable in forming. He had, indeed, while in London, occasionally indulged his favourite propensity, and though his pieces were praised by critics of celebrity, who admired his talents, he could not suppress the timidity which prevented the publication of them. Thus he continued to write, and continued to conceal his writings from the public eye.

At length, after repeated intervals of fear and hope, confidence triumphed over every timorous consideration, and he resolved to come forward, not as a competitor for momentary and perishable applause, but as a candidate for noble and lasting reputation. His difficulties in selecting a new and interesting subject were great, but he knew, that whatever topic he might choose, he would have more obstacles to surmount in cloathing it in a new and interesting dress. Painting displayed attractions which decided his opinion. The subject, though difficult to be handled without a precise knowledge of the art,

art, was fruitful in ideas, both fascinating and dignified, instructive and sublime.

His essay on painting was published in 1778, and Hayley regularly began his life as an author, in his thirty-third year; an age in which the reputation of Pope was in its full blaze of popularity. The criticisms which the writer thought proper to introduce into this work, though in common instances accurate, were, in those of a more minute and refined nature, censured by the artists, whose superiority of judgment, with respect to their own pursuits, will hardly be contested. The diction is, in general, adequate to the matter. It is perspicuous, flowing and impassioned. He seems to have been convinced, that the most captivating substitute for novelty of thought, is sweetness of numbers and richness of versification. It has, however, been blamed for a redundancy of style, that exposes the poet to the charge of not sufficiently varying the construction of his periods.

The poem was deservedly praised, and Mr. Hayley was tempted, by the solicitations of his friends and admirers, to resume his residence in London. Had he been really ambitious of popularity, or desirous of courting the protection of the great, a more favourable opportunity could not have presented itself to his wishes. There was, from the first appearance of his production, an importance attached to his name in the literary world, which he might have cultivated with the patronage of the most distinguished circles, and with the most profitable results to his private

private interest. But, like Horace, his love for the enjoyments of domestic life, and his fondness for his farm, were not lost in the triumph of his muse. As a moralist, he may be fairly supposed to have enquired:——

> "Cur valle permutem Sabinâ
> Divitias operosiores?"

His essay on history appeared in 1780, and bore decisive marks of considerable improvement. It certainly possesses the fairest pretensions to rank as his best production, and exemplifies the happy art of embellishing character with animated description, splendid imagery, and dignified sentiment. The improvement, however, naturally arose from his choice of a subject more conformable to his general knowledge, and more congenial to the public taste. He had not to discuss the principles of an art, with which he was not thoroughly acquainted, and on which his comments, however just, were liable to be controverted by the caprice and opinions of different masters.

Soon after followed "The Triumphs of Temper," a work certainly more bold and luxuriant than his former pieces; but his confidence is raised to an excess of daring, and his luxuriance, from the too frequent introduction of allegory, and the studious accumulation of pomp and splendour of diction, is, at times, unintelligible, and often dazzles but to confound. There is, notwithstanding, much to praise, and though his Pegassus flies with a loose rein,

rein, he has a grandeur in the irregularities of his flight, that shews an extensive range of fancy, of which the poet may not, perhaps, have been thought capable.

Mr. Hayley now seemed determined not to linger in the career of fame, and in 1782, the literati were surprised at the publication of the "Essay on Epic Poetry." It abounds in melody of numbers and copiousness of expression, but unfortunately betrays many marks of a mind, negligent of the necessary connexion between thought and language. The most fastidious critic must allow it to possess numerous documents of industrious investigation and correct taste, with unquestionable proofs of a profound knowledge of the subject. But this is not sufficient; the professor who delivers lectures on the subject matter of his prospectus, should be careful not to give to his scholars an opportunity to read lectures to him in their turn. He, who undertakes the arduous task of instructing others, should be concise, luminous, and impressive. This excellence has been rarely attained by our author in his Essay on Epic Poetry. He is loose, inadequate, and careless of appropriate style. Had not Cicero, Quinctilian, and Longinus, suited their method and terms to their subjects, they would not have been raised to that pre-eminence of authority which they have so long enjoyed*.

* It must be admitted, that the notes to the Essay evince a great fund of learning, and a correct knowledge of different languages.

Of

Of his dramatic productions, we cannot speak in a very favourable manner. His rhyming comedies can only be considered as so many experiments, hazarded to gratify the curiosity of the writer. They are chaste in sentiment, and pure in language; but they do not possess a sufficient degree of wit, humour, and interest, the principal things that could recommend them to public favour.

The tragedies of Mr. Hayley furnish a striking proof that he was unacquainted with the nature of the English drama. The versification is correct, and frequently rich, but the plots are devoid of incident, and our affections are fast asleep, when the bosom should be agitated by the varied passion of the tragic muse. That judgment must have been very erroneous, which could entertain any hopes of the success of such plays, while *Julius Cæsar*, *Cato*, and *Irene*, were discarded from the stage.

His miscellaneous works are both instructive and amusing, and his compositions in prose, though not distinguished for energy or grace, possess both in a degree far above mediocrity.

Mr. Hayley seems to have taken Pope for his model, not with the design of emulating, but of approaching him in a nearer degree than any of his predecessors or contemporaries. Like that great master, he has been minute in his attention to cadences, pauses, and the charms of modulation. But his sentiments are too much expanded, when they ought to be condensed. His amplification is not without magnificence; but he amplifies when a judicious

dicious and striking contraction is necessary. Not satisfied with presenting a combination of ideas, in one advantageous light, he goes on enlarging, until its original vigour is impaired, and the languor of the poet and that of the reader become reciprocal. Yet, even here, he has the merit of displaying elegance and grace in his excursions; but he is elegant without strength, and graceful without precision. Poetry too diffused, like empire too extended,

"Exchanges solid strength for feeble splendour."

His imagery is judicious and sometimes lofty, but it wants those vivifying sparks of genius that brighten into a blaze of enthusiastic admiration for the poet. He is without vehemence and impetuosity, but he is also without inequality and roughness. The creative faculty is not to be traced in his works, but he has made his muse subservient to the noblest purposes; and the name of HAYLEY will be remembered with honour, while polite literature, morality, and taste shall continue to be cultivated, practised and admired.

In private life, the conduct of Hayley is entitled to the highest panegyric. From his earliest introduction into society, he has been remarkable for amenity of manners, integrity of principle, and independence of mind. He has never condescended to flatter his superiors in rank, nor has he courted popularity by those unworthy means, to which genius has been known to prostitute its dignity. An uniform friend to virtue and talents, he has, in many instances, rescued

rescued innocence from distress, and merit from penury.

The monument to the memory of Collins, the poet, in Chichester cathedral, was designed and the epitaph written by Mr. Hayley, who was a very liberal subscriber towards its erection.

No person lives in more elegant retirement than Mr. Hayley. His grounds at Eartham, have been laid out by himself, with as much taste, as if they had been superintended by Mr. Capability Brown. He now spends much of his time at Telpham, near Bognor, where he has built an elegant cottage, for the purpose of affording his son the benefit of sea-bathing, whose long declining state of health has unhappily involved him in great affliction. Q.

THE COUNTESS OF DERBY.

MANY females have risen from the lowest walks of life to distinguished eminence; some on account of their personal charms, others by fortuitous circumstances, and many by adding cunning to their attractions, but few, very few, by their intrinsic merit, their superior beauty, and their virtuous deportment united.

The stage is a dangerous situation for a young woman of a lively temper and personal accomplishments, especially when her professional excellencies have stamped her a favourite with the public. To

preserve the line of virtue amidst such various temptations, and amidst numerous admirers possessed of titles and affluence, evinces a strength of principle and a purity of heart that justly call for the greatest admiration. When a person in such a state, and so circumstanced, falls beneath the allurements which continually present themselves, even the virtuous are more disposed to pity than to censure, to excuse than to condemn. But when one thus placed, nobly braves every temptation, resists all the glittering attractions which are held out, and, without paternal guardianship, steers her course through the intricate quicksands, without once deserving a censorious remark from the observant multitude, it is proper to hold such an one forth as an example deserving of praise and imitation.

Mr. Farren, her Ladyship's father, served a regular apprenticeship to a surgeon and apothecary at Cork; and his brother rose by his merit, to the rank of captain in the 64th regiment of foot. This gentleman was a scholar and an author, and wrote an essay on taste, which was put into the hands of Dr. Hawkesworth, and met with his approbation, but we believe it was never published.

The father of Miss Farren, after he was out of his time, set up in business for himself at Cork, but though he was generally respected, and married the daughter of Mr. Wright, an eminent brewer at Liverpool, with whom he had some fortune; his practise failed, and at length he became insolvent. It must not be concealed, that his conduct, in some re-

spects,

spects, proved the source of his misfortunes, for he was fond of company, without being select in his choice, and loved the tavern better than his shop. He had always been partial to theatrical amusements, and greatly delighted in associating with the children of Thespis in his native city. After his retirement to Liverpool, therefore, and finding that his father-in-law's circumstances were not adequate to his expectations, he boldly resolved upon venturing into the dramatic line. His irregular habits, however, continued, and had it not been for the exertions of Mrs. Farren, and the assistance which she received from her friends, the situation of herself and her children must have been wretched in the extreme. She brought him seven, of whom only two are now living, Elizabeth, the subject of this notice, who was the second, and Peggy, the youngest, who is the wife of Mr. Knight, a respectable performer, of Covent Garden theatre.

The Countess was born in 1759, and lost her father when she was very young. In 1773, she made her first appearance on the Liverpool stage, in the character of Rosetta, in the comic opera of Love in a Village. That theatre was then under the management of Mr. Younger, a dramatic veteran, and still remembered in that part of the kingdom with respect, for his pleasantness and liberality. He took Miss Farren under his own immediate protection, became her tutor, and watched over her with a truly parental solicitude. Under such a guardian and preceptor, aided by a quickness of perception and a

ductile disposition, she soon became a promising actress, and the favourite of the public, not only at Liverpool, but at Shrewsbury, Chester, and other places where the corps of Mr. Younger usually performed.

At length, that worthy man, who had always a lively concern in her welfare and advancement, recommended her to try her fortune in London. Accordingly she came to town in the summer of 1777, with a letter from Mr. Younger to the elder Colman, at whose theatre she appeared shortly after, in the character of Miss Hardcastle, in Goldsmith's comedy of She Stoops to Conquer. That excellent mimic, Edwin, made his first appearance the same night, in the character of Tony Lumpkin; and the same season produced also that eminent genius the late Mr. Henderson, a trio of performers seldom exhibited together.

Some of the critics of the day, in their observations on her performance, blended considerable truth with much cynical severity. It may not be unamusing to quote their remarks: "Miss Farren's first appearance on a London stage, appeared the most leading figure in this groupe, and from that circumstance, is entitled to some indulgence from the critic pen. Her performance of Miss Hardcastle, though far short of Mrs. Bulkeley, who was the original bar-maid, would not have disgraced either of our winter theatres. Her person is genteel and above the middle stature; her countenance full of sensibility and capable of expression; her voice clear but

but rather sharp, and not sufficiently varied; her action not directly aukward; and her delivery emphatic and distinct. When Miss Farren learns to tread the stage with more ease; to modulate and vary her voice; to correct, inspirit, and regulate her action; and to give a proper utterance to her feelings, by a suitable expression of voice and countenance, in our opinion she will be a most valuable acquisition to our London theatres."

Her reception was very flattering, and the best judges of acting at once predicted her future eminence in that line. On the 30th of August following, she played the part of Rosina, in the Spanish Barber, which was then performed for the first time, and, by her manner of acting, she contributed greatly to the success of the piece.

In the ensuing winter she accepted an offer from the managers of Covent Garden theatre, where she played tragedy with the late Mr. Digges; so little did they understand or examine the real bent of her talents at that time. Not long afterwards she removed to Drury Lane, where also she stood on the tragic line, though sometimes a comic character was allotted to her. At length a lucky circumstance occurred, which brought her into that immediate sphere, in which she was destined by nature to move. Mrs. Abington, the favourite of Thalia and of the town, went from Old Drury to Covent Garden, and left that department, which she had filled with so much splendour, unoccupied. In this exigence, the proprietors fixed upon Miss Farren, who soon proved,

if not superior, yet in most respects equal to Mrs. Abington. One of the grave censors of that time, in his observations on this change, has given an opinion which may well be adverted to in this retrospect. "The desertion of Mrs. Abington from Drury Lane to Covent Garden theatre, left an open field for the display of Miss Farren's abilities, of which the public had before entertained great hopes. The task, however, was a severe one, perhaps too severe. The manner of Mrs. A. is not only excellent in itself, but the auditors were so used to it, and remembered it so perfectly in each instance, where the wit, satire, or situation was remarkable, that her successor must have been her superior to have been thought her equal. Truth requires we should say, though Miss Farren has great merit, she was neither; she is yet young, and from the progress she made during the first seasons of her appearance on the London theatres, we have reason to hope, that if she pursues her endeavours to excel, with the same ardor she began, she will become the favourite of Thalia, and one of the brightest ornaments of the stage. Her figure is tall, but not sufficiently muscular; were it a little more *em-bon-point*, it would be one of the finest the theatre can boast. Her eyes are lively, her face handsome, and very capable both of comic and sentimental expression."

The part which she first undertook in the comic line at this theatre, was that of Lady Townley, to which she was directed by that sagacious judge and excellent performer, Mr. Parsons, for whose benefit she

she played. From that time she took the whole circuit of Mrs. Abington's characters with equal success.

The applauses with which she was favoured by the public, however gratifying, could not equal the satisfaction which she must have felt at being honoured with the private esteem of the great and the good. The regularity of her deportment, and the modesty of her disposition, procured her the friendship of some of the first characters in the fashionable circles. Lady Dorothea Thomson, and Lady Cecilia Johnson, admitted Miss Farren in the number of their particular intimates; and by this means it was that she attracted the attention of the Earl of Derby.

All the world knows the circumstances in which his Lordship stood with respect to his first Countess; yet nothing but her dissolution could enable her separated husband to give his hand to one so deserving of his love. Miss Farren's profession and origin, and all circumstances combined with it, as well as his own, would have rendered another sort of connexion not very offensive in the eyes of the major part of mankind. But, to the honour of the parties, the breath of calumny could never find occasion to whisper a single remark on the subject of their intimacy, that might put either of them to the blush. As his Lordship's knowledge of her character and turn of mind increased, his attachment became more rivetted. It was not the ardour of youthful frolic, or the playfulness of a capricious fancy, but

a pure, sensible love, grounded upon the admiration of principles as well as of person, and an assurance that in such an union more happiness was likely to be expected than from one of a more pompous nature.

Though neither his Lordship nor Miss Farren were scrupulous to conceal their particular intimacy, they were cautious in the management of it, to give the world no room for censorious remark: and it is observable, that in all their interviews Mrs. Farren was present, who has always resided with her daughter in every step of her advancement.

The following testimonies of Lord Derby's affectionate esteem, are too honourable to both persons to be omitted.

TO MR. HUMPHREYS, THE MINIATURE PAINTER,

ON HIS PORTRAIT OF MISS FARREN.

O THOU, whose pencil all the graces guide,
Whom beauty, conscious of her fading bloom,
So oft implores, alas! with harmless pride,
To snatch the transient treasure from the tomb!

Pleas'd, I behold the fair, whose comic art
Th' unwearied eye of taste and judgment draws;
Who charms with Nature's elegance the heart,
And claims the loudest thunder of applause.

Such, such alone, should prompt thy pencil's toil;
Of serving folly give thy labour o'er;
Fools never will be wanting to our isle;
Perhaps a FARREN may appear no more.

TO MISS FARREN,

ON HER BEING ABSENT FROM CHURCH.

WHILE wond'ring Angels, as they look'd from high,
Observ'd thine absence with an holy sigh,

To

To them a bright exalted Seraph said,
"Blame not the conduct of the exalted maid,
Where'er she goes her steps can never stray,
RELIGION walks companion of her way;
She goes with every virtuous thought imprest,
HEAVEN on her face, and Heaven within her breast."

At length, on the death of the late Countess of Derby, the way was clear to the perfection of that happiness which his Lordship had so long anticipated. Miss Farren took her farewell of the public at Drury Lane, on the 7th of April, 1797, in the character of Lady Teazle, in the School for Scandal, on which occasion the house literally overflowed, and the curtain dropped amidst such emotions as never before were witnessed in any theatre.

On the 8th of May following, she was married to Lord Derby by special licence, at his Lordship's house in Grosvenor-square. Soon after, her Ladyship was introduced at court, and made one in the procession at the marriage of the Princess Royal to the Duke of Wirtemburg. Since that time, this noble pair have spent much of their time at their seat in the country, where her Ladyship is considered as a blessing by the tenants and the poor. In the privileged orders, among whom her Ladyship has been introduced, she is deservedly respected and beloved, as the MOST TRULY NOBLE of her rank.

S. K.

MR. PRATT,

THE interesting subject of our present Memoir, was born at St. Ives, in Huntingdonshire, about the year 1749-50, upon Christmas Day, old style.

His father was twice, we believe, high sheriff for that county, and many years in the commission of the peace. He was a gentleman of great worth, good family, and of considerable property; and Mr. Pratt's mother was niece to the famous Sir Thomas Drury. Our author was the only survivor of fifteen children, most of whom died young.

Mr. Pratt received the rudiments of his classical education at Felstead, a celebrated seminary, in Essex, in which county were situated the family estates, and mansion house, the name of which was Rockwood-hall. To this was attached the Manor of Abbots, one of the Nine Roothings, or Roodings. The house itself is rendered famous in history, by being the residence of the Lord Capels, and for concealing Elizabeth from the rage of her sister Mary, till she was conveyed in safety away, by means of a subterraneous communication between the private chapel of the mansion and Abbots Rooding Church.

At a very early period of life, our author is said to have proved varieties of fortune, and by one or other of these, more especially in a disappointment of a tender nature, to have been counteracted in as various plans of establishment by some family differences,

To

To these may be traced the origin and progress of those misfortunes which overshadowed the morning of Mr. Pratt's life, and which, indeed, too frequently cloud, not only the prospects of the sons and daughters of genius, but impede their future figure and advancement. The embarrassments brought on by these domestic grievances, gave a premature check to all attempts, and more than one were tired, of fixing in the liberal professions, in either of which he was unquestionably endowed with qualities to become eminent, had not his mind been thus rendered irritable, and trammelled by difficulties; aggravated; perhaps, by the impetuous vehemence natural to youth, and more particularly to youthful genius, which threw him upon the world at an age, when, like his own Benignus, (a most interesting character in his first work of the novel kind), he was no way calculated to cope with it; no wonder, therefore, if his spring of existence was overcast, or that many succeeding years elapsed before the gloom was dispelled, so as to leave his talents unobscured, and himself free to exercise them to his own fame and the public good; or indeed permit them to shine in their proper sphere. Prior, however, to this period, he is known to have experienced not a few reverses.

Yet whatever inconveniences may individually have arisen from these transitions and vicissitudes, which it would be painful and invidious to detail, the public are probably indebted to them for no slight share of their amusement and gratification during the past twenty-

twenty-five years: few, if any of our English writers, having contributed more to the stock of their literary pleasure than Mr. Pratt, whose numerous writings in favor of philanthropy have now, for a longer space even than that abovementioned, deservedly ranked him high in the public esteem, and whose productions must have had a proportionate effect in diffusing that delicacy and liberality of sentiment, and those rich effusions of fancy, which are no less ornamental than beneficial to society,

Mr. Pratt's first essays in prose and verse, were, as is usual with juvenile writers, diffused in private circles amongst his partial friends and admirers; but the continuation of the domestic differences we have alluded to, at length terminated in more serious evils consequent upon family divisions, including the loss of a considerable part of patrimonial property, and much of the remainder was squandered amongst the lawyers, in the progress of a long Chancery suit.—These events operating on an ardent temper, and a disappointed mind, directed the pen of our young bard into more public and productive channels, but did not damp the progress of his genius. His performances, however, were, for some years, either anonymous, or under an assumed signature. His first efforts were made in the monthly publications, where they were soon sufficiently noticed to be copied into various other vehicles, till, some years after, such as the author deemed most worthy, were collected and given to the world in four volumes, under the general title of "Miscellanies," in which is preserved

served his fine poem of "Sympathy," after passing through six quarto copious editions, with a rapidity equalled in modern times only by the "Traveller" and "Deserted Village;" the delightful versification, benevolent sentiment, and exquisite imagery of both which, do not surpass what we meet with in Mr. Pratt's poem.

His first-published poetical work of any length, was the "Tears of Genius," occasioned by the death of Dr. Goldsmith, or, a poetical commemoration of the departed English bards—a work as happy in the idea as in the execution. The stile and sentiment of each deceased poet is caught, and imitated in this production, with so much spirit and accuracy, that the reader is led to believe they are perusing tributes to, and epitaphs of, the departed sons of genius, written by themselves. This poem, after a very flattering reception in its original form, was, like "Sympathy," preserved in the "Miscellanies," and stands also affixed to a beautiful edition of Dr. Goldsmith's poetical works. Mr. Pratt could not have been more than twenty years of age on the first appearance of this very ingenious performance; prior to which he printed some smaller pieces of poetry, bearing similar marks of early and advancing genius. These, we believe, were first given in a volume of the old Annual Register, published by Dodsley, while conducted by the celebrated Mr. Burke.

On the death of the English Roscius, our author likewise offered a poetical tribute to the talents of that great actor, called "The Shadows of Shakespeare,"

speare," in which the different characters in the works of the immortal bard, particularly such as had derived new lustre from Mr. Garrick's performance, were made to do homage, and address themselves in character, as they mourned over the tomb of their representative. This ingenious poem is another proof of a happy conception in Mr. Pratt, in seizing the subject of the moment, and giving it general importance and stability. Though the quarto editions are out of print, it is amongst the number of republications to be still seen in the author's "Miscellanies;" and to that impression is affixed a very beautiful vignette, by Mr. Gardener, displaying the "Shadows" doing homage, finely grouped, and habited in their respective characters. This poem has frequently been recited on the theatre, and in other public places; and was, we believe, first written for the "Bath Easton Villa," to which the author was a frequent and successful contributor: and, on account of his well-known excellence in reading, wherein he is said to have few equals, not only gave even advantage to his own verses, but to those of many other votaries of the vase.

The next work in the order of publication was the "Sublime and Beautiful of Scripture," which first appeared in two volumes, and, after three successive editions, was comprised in one. It is a kind of commentary and illustration of the most interesting and beautiful narratives of the Bible, which are presented to the reader in the most pathetic and attractive manner, and affords a pleasing example of the

the author's abilities for literary criticism. This little volume is particularly adapted to form a part of education amongst the English exercises, and might be introduced into our seminaries with great advantage.

Thus encouraged by public favour, our author, in 1775, produced a work of a most singular kind, under the miscellaneous title of "Liberal Opinions, on Man, Animals, and Providence," which were brought before the public in two volumes, 12mo. at a time, extending in the whole to six—the first two in 1780; but it has since been comprised in four, and with a success which induced the author to lay aside his fictitious signature, and stand forth as its avowed writer. "Liberal Opinions" include the adventures of *Benignus*, which, in more than one trait of mind, manners, and misfortunes, has been thought to bear no small resemblance to its author. This book first discovered to the public that peculiar facility of delineating character, whether ludicrous or pathetic, which Mr. Pratt has since carried to a degree of perfection equalled by few, and surpassed by no writer whatever, without making an exception in favour of Fielding, Richardson, or Sterne.

Some critics, however, have pronounced the character of Draper, in the "Liberal Opinions," to be a dangerous picture, set off in colours too fascinating: but, for having too much brightened the reprehensible qualities of this single object, ample atonement is made, by a variety of other characters, which are here embellished with the loveliest tintings of virtue and

and benevolence. Amongst these Mr. Greaves and Benignus are not only to be enumerated with many others as beautiful examples, but may claim a place of honour and admiration beside the most celebrated portraits of the pen: and the poems of the Unfortunate Daughter and of the Highwayman, are each of uncommon beauty and interest.

The work next in succession of publishing, was his well-known "Pupil of Pleasure," a severe but animated illustration, and personification, of the Earl of Chesterfield's famous letters; and it would be difficult to say, whether the text or the commentary most engaged public attention, or, indeed, most divided public applause and censure; many being of opinion they were both equally dangerous, and others asserting that the antidote was powerful enough even to expel the poison. Several pamphlets, and innumerable essays, &c. &c. were at the time published, by way of stricture upon both these performances. In the mean time both increased in popularity and reputation. The most able of the objectors to Mr. Pratt's work, was the amiable and ingenious Clara Reeve, who animadverted on the "Pupil of Pleasure" with much severity as to its moral, though she admitted the elegance of the style. Mr. Pratt's book was certainly written with uncommon fervour; but, as it now stands in the late editions, does infinite honour to the author's abilities, and merits the eulogy of the critic who pronounced, that "there never was a happier thought, than thus to personify Lord Chesterfield's maxims, and

and by a natural train of events, in a story that touches every chord of the human heart, demonstrate the pernicious and fatal tendency of that brilliant casuist." The Reverend Mr. Hunter, also, in a series of well written letters on those of Lord Chesterfield, is to be enumerated amongst the warmest advocates and admirers of our author on this occasion.

If, however, any degree of censure may still be thought to attach to the writer of these very interesting volumes, wherein the severest judgment must appreciate the characters of the whole Delmore family, of Fanny Mortimer, and of poor Horace Homespun, (whose sensations on seeing and hearing the drops of rain fall heavy on the hearse of his offending wife, will ever be remembered); he assuredly deserves full credit for removing from all succeeding compositions every thing, that either in fable, sentiment, or character, might carry but a possibility of being misrepresented or mistaken. His "Tutor of Truth," which soon followed, began a proof of this, that has been continued in every performance, whether of prose or verse; and though we trace the like felicity of diction, and the same splendor of fancy, as well as general power over the understanding, whatever could prove hostile to delicacy or morals of any kind, has been studiously avoided. The "Tutor of Truth" was *intended*, indeed, as a *contrast* to the "Pupil of Pleasure," or rather the character of Carlisle, in the one, was meant to oppose Sedley in the other; how then are we to account for its compara-

tively inferior success? The merit of the story and interest of the characters are, upon the whole, nearly equal; and the morality unquestionably less liable to objections, even if not less objectionable in fact.

Be this as it may, our author's Sedley is, what Lord Chesterfield wished to have seen Mr. Stanhope. Since this, Mr. Pratt's productive pen has proceeded in one undeviating progress, no less chaste in design than beautiful in execution, whatever has been its subjects; and there are very few in the circle of the *Belle Lettres*, of which it has not, in the unwearied and unwearying course of its multifarious labours, presented us with a specimen of that versatility of talent for which he is remarkable. His "Observations on Dr. Young's Night Thoughts," first printed in 1774, display, amidst some juvenilities, and not a few inaccuracies of style, a solid judgment and taste for criticism, as well as on the beauties and defects of poetic composition in general, as on the sublime though very unequal writer in particular, whose admirable genius was the object of his remarks. These "Observations" were addressed to the celebrated Mrs. Montagu, who had, herself, long before, established a never-fading reputation for the critical art, wherein our young author was then only a candidate.

In the year following he gave to the public his second performance of the novel kind, yet of a distinct species from what is in general so called, founded on a benevolent but chimerical sentiment of Mr. Shenstone. This elegant poet had hinted at the delight he should have had in building upon an entire neigh-

neighbourhood, filling it with inhabitants, and then settling them according to their rank, feelings, and talents. This Utopian plan Mr. Pratt brought to the test in a work which he appropriately entitled "Shenstone Green," in which he created, peopled, and endowed a village on the principles the far-famed bard of the Leasowes had sketched. Our author, in a truly ingenious manner pursued, and in a literary sense *realized* this idea; and while he proved its fallacy, and shewed the impossibility of its being carried into execution, in the present state of society, makes his readers lament that it is only one of those fairy dreams, which, as Mr. Pope says, "beautify our days." The fable and characters employed by the author in bringing about the pleasure, population, prosperity, and ultimate destruction of this little town, which is shewn to be an epitome of the whole associated earth, are extremely diverting in some parts, and touching in others, demonstrating but too plainly on the whole, with what propriety the author, in the second title, has called it the "New Paradise Lost;" and "A History of Human Nature."

About this time came forth the charming poem of "Sympathy," which was immediately received with the distinction it deserved; it seemed to aid the successful efforts of the muse-loved Hayley, in reviving the poetic spirit, which had drooped and languished ever since the death of Goldsmith. This performance was read and spoken of in all circles of fashion and science, as one of uncommon excellence. It

was inscribed to a most amiable character, the Rev. Mr. Whalley, author of a successful play, entitled "The Castle of Montval," lately performed at Drury-lane theatre. The heroine was most admirably sustained by Mrs. Siddons. "Sympathy" received various honours, prior to, as well as after publication, being introduced to the respectable Mr. Cadell, as its publisher, by the celebrated Gibbon, and ushered in the second edition, which followed fast upon the first, by complimentary verses from the valuable pen of Mr. Potter, the English Æschylus, with a sonnet by the very ingenius author of the "Old English Baron;" and it continues, and will ever continue to afford augmented delight to every reader of taste and sensibility, as well as to increase the reputation of the author as a poet.

The universally admired "Emma Corbet," came forth after the war in America, whose woes with those of the mother country, it so affectingly illustrates and describes, had raged most fiercely. The time, the circumstances, the subject, and the manner of treating it, all helped to make this work extremely popular; and accordingly, there has, perhaps, not been any thing in the language more read. It soon reached a ninth impression, and has received every distinction both from the pen and pencil. The embellishments of Angelica Kauffman prefixed to all the two volume editions, are, though on a small scale, amongst the finest sketches of that captivating artist.

The expectations formed by the public of our author's

thor's power over the tender passions, from the above mentioned performances, and of his poetical abilities from his poem of "Sympathy," were now very high; and it was under these favourable impressions that he produced his tragedy of the "Fair Circassian," founded on the Almoran and Hamet of Dr. Hawkesworth, the author's private tutor, and the first guide of his muse. It had a run of twenty-six nights with scarcely any intermission, and, considered as a first dramatic essay, was a very successful exertion. Few characters on the English stage surpass the Eastern sage; but it may be considered, on account of the preternatural machinery, rather as a spectacle than a regular drama; and while we express our surprise that the author has not again wooed the tragic muse, we marvel much, that in these times of theatrical pageantry, the piece in question, which had perhaps more than enough of glare and glitter, is not revived. At the same time that we allow this production its due share of praise, we by no means consider it equal to several other of the author's poetical performances.

Shortly afterwards were published, "Landscapes in verse," which, though it falls much below his "Sympathy," had considerable success and merit.

But if he fell somewhat short of himself in the last mentioned performance, the Muse of Sympathy shone forth again with additional lustre on another occasion. The intended national tribute of a statue to the memory of the great philanthropist, Howard, is well remembered, and amongst the poetical effu-

sions which were offered at the shrine of unexampled goodness, as displayed by this extraordinary character, our author contributed his "Triumph of Benevolence," which was sent anonymously as a present to the committee appointed to conduct the business of a statue, as well as the receivers of the money for its erection. The treasurers publicly expressed their acknowledgments to the unknown author, who desired the profits might be appropriated to the increase of the fund; and it was given to almost every writer of eminence, before Mr. Pratt put in his claim. It was the intention of the committee to have read this at an anniversary meeting, and at the base of the statue; but the modesty of Mr. Howard was equal even to his benevolence, and the whole plan came to a sudden stop. The design is, nevertheless, as honourable to the sensibility of the public, as the poem is to Mr. Pratt, whose *chef d'œuvre* in poetry this production may be accounted.

In 1788 appeared the first quarto edition of "Humanity, or the Rights of Nature." This production may be considered as a continuation of "Sympathy," of which it is by no means unworthy, and every reader of taste and feeling will rejoice with us, that he, who so well sung the "Triumph of Benevolence," has undertaken to vindicate the Rights of Nature, and to inculcate the virtues of "Humanity."

Mr. Pratt suffered his pen to lie dormant, from the first publication of his poem of "Humanity," already noticed, for several years, during which he resided chiefly on the continent; but it was resumed, at length,

length, with every advantage, in giving the observations which he made abroad, under the title of "Gleanings," first published in 1795, and of which, various large impressions have succeeded. Concerning this performance, the critics were unanimous in remarking, that the author exhibited an example of a species of travellers different from all those enumerated by Sterne, and that they could not but highly approve while he pursued this judicious mode, and found so many lively and pleasant exhibitions of manners, so many amusing and interesting anecdotes, and so many observations and reflections, gay and grave, sportive and sentimental (all expressed in a gay and familiar style), better suited to the purpose, than sentences laboured with artificial exactness. The general idea of Wales, in this tour, is beautifully pastoral, and has, perhaps, more contributed to making that principality the resort of fashion and of travellers of all descriptions, and *publishing* tourists also, than any book that had before undertaken to describe that fine appendage of the British empire: and we are carried from thence into Holland, Guelderland, and Westphalia, with equal success, by this literary magician, who presents us, wheresoever he goes, with gleanings for the heart, and gleanings for the imagination. The stories in this work, whether pathetic or humorous, are of the first order of composition, particularly such as are addressed to the fancy or feelings of the reader; such as the "Two Sisters taking the Veil;" the "Dutch draft Dogs;" the "Sparrows;" the exquisite story of the "Merchant's

Daughter;" the "Old Horse;" and, above all, the story of the "Bird-catcher, and his Canary," which deserves to be placed close to Yorick's Starling; with a variety of others of no less estimation in the eye and to the heart of the reader. In short, Mr. Pratt has here offered to the public, an entertainment as rich as it is various, part of which he has given in an easy conversation style, and all with sprightliness and good humour, excepting the letters, which he addresses avowedly to the affections: "and there," says the reverend author of the dialogue, "the heart owns him resistless." These volumes contain two beautiful songs, both of which have been set to music by eminent hands; also a republication of his celebrated poems of "Humanity," and the "Triumph of Benevolence."

The public had not received from Mr. Pratt's pen a novel since his "Emma Corbet," between which and "Family Secrets," first published in 1797, elapsed a period of more than ten years. In the first edition of the last named work, the author denominated it "Literary and Domestic," because the sketches of literary conversation woven into the history, were intended, he told us, as an *experiment*, how far such a plan might tend to exalt the *character* without diminishing the *interest* of this species of composition." "A sale within the year of one of the largest editions that has ever been published of any work of imagination, will not," as Mr. Pratt observed, in an advertisement prefixed to the 2d edition, "be received as evidence of public disapprobation, but of the exact reverse;

reverse; yet, in compliance with a general idea of the work being too much protracted, and the interest of the story too much impeded, by means of the literary and other discussions, the whole performance appeared under favour of such retrenchments and corrections as either private or public opinion suggested." In pursuance of this plan of improvement, Mr. Pratt has, with an unsparing hand, acted the part of a critic upon himself; such parts of the original work as consisted of literary disquisition and other discussions, not immediately appertaining to the story, have therefore been either wholly omitted, or so occasionally retrenched as to render the history more rapid, and the succession of events consequently more interesting, without at all affecting the original design or deranging the parts. The author carefully kept himself out of sight, and made his retrenchments in such a way that a reader of the second edition in 1798, would scarcely imagine that the first could contain more. The admirers of Emma Corbet, and of these various productions which have been enumerated, and which deservedly procured him an interest in all feeling hearts and polished minds, will here find ample cause to hail his return; for this is one of those books which fastens so strongly on the attention by its interest, that notwithstanding its length, few readers will prevail on themselves to lay it down before they have perused the whole. In a word, this is the first production which we have seen of late years, that may be denominated of the *old school*; here is neither

ther ghost, goblin nor spectre; and it is but justice to say, that to the moral delicacies of Richardson, Mr. Pratt has here united much of the humour of Fielding, without any imitation of either. But after all these excellencies, which, though chiefly adopted from various criticisms, we are disposed to admit in their full force, we cannot but think that the performance, as a work of fancy, might still be compressed; for a novel may certainly be as much too strong and powerful, as too weak and flimsy.

We now come to notice the last of our author's productions, and certainly not the least in public estimation. On the first coming out of his former volumes, upon his return to England, there appeared in one of the public prints the following stanzas, introduced by a wish that Mr. Pratt would no more alienate himself to glean foreign lands.

Here amidst the proud profusion smile,
Admired by genius, and to virtue dear,
Weaving the flowers that blossom on our isle,
And bright'ning ev'ry leaf with pity's tear!

Where merit weeps with "Sympathy" to bless,
Where vice assails "Humanity" to show
Mirth's dimpled cheek with modest smiles to dress,
And snatch from sorrow's breast—the weeds of woe."

With this wish of the author of the above verses Mr. P. seems to have complied in the additional volume just mentioned, which is entirely a *Harvest Home*, and to British readers at least, therefore, the more interesting.—The Author has, in manifold instances, says a learned critic upon his work, shewn himself

himself a faithful delineator of his countrymen, and a generous and manly defender of his country, to which his performance is a tribute no less valuable than *well-timed*. This may fairly be said of the *political* feature of the picture; the *natural* one presents the island in a warm display of its scenic beauty: while those lineaments which are coloured by the affections, and which give the *mind* of the country, are pourtrayed with the hand both of a painter and of a poet. The right chord of the heart is often touched in the right place; and the smiling remark is judiciously brought in to chase away the tear produced by any of the more pathetic narratives. The gleaner has our cordial assent to proceed in *the like manner*, till he himself, after, we hope yet a long journey, arrive at that place "from whose bourn no traveller returns." The direction which Mr. Pratt has taken in this leading volume, is the county of Norfolk, which may indeed be considered as a striking *likeness* in a *miniature*, appreciated for its unaffected appeals to the best affections of our nature, its happily arranged inferences, and the general inquiry it excites, as much as for the local information with which it abounds.

The letters on criticism are certainly not inferior in energy or utility, to any in the book; at once playful and serious, and exhibiting equal judgment and delicacy. It is, indeed, a trembling subject, treated with great address. And the poems of the "Summer Tribute to Nature," and the "Address to the

the Sea," the one remarkable for softness, the other for sublimity, are *chef d'œuvres*.

Mr. Pratt has always avowed a disinclination to engage in the heats of party, on either side, yet has invariably shewn himself to be a warm friend to the good order of that social compact, by which all men are bound to their native country; and on particular national emergencies he has come forward with some well-timed and temporary public offering. In 1797, when our naval disputes ran fearfully high, appeared a letter from Mr. Pratt to the "Tars of Old England." This very animated address to the British seamen, upon their lamentable and unexampled mutiny, which is now almost forgotten in their glory, possesses great merit. It breathes all the energy and spirit of true patriotism; and speaks a language which must affect every heart not wholly corrupted by the poison of insubordination. This ran through six editions in a less number of weeks. In the same year came out, a letter to the "British Soldiers," by the same author, in which he has strengthened the reproof which he dispensed to the seduced sailors, by the judicious panegyric which he has here bestowed upon the unsullied purity of the military character.

It became a sort of fashion for literary people of both sexes to contribute pamphlets and books on national subjects and distribute them gratis; of this plan we believe Lord Carlisle and Hannah More were the first projectors. Our author contributed a small tract, entitled "Our good old Castle on the Rock,"

Rock," intended to prove that a spirit of general union which may concenter the hands and hearts of the nation against a common enemy, is the only way to make "Our good old Castle on the Rock" impregnable. It is elegant, and yet easy to every understanding.

Mr. Pratt is also author of various impromptus, &c. on temporary subjects, particularly a very beautiful inscription engraved on the monument lately erected in Westminster-Abbey, to the memory of Mr. Garrick, finely executed by Webber.

It remains only to be said, that the virtues are not indebted to Mr. Pratt for his *writings* only: his *life* has been constantly distinguished by an uniform practice and support of the most amiable qualities; and the writer of this article cannot close it, without feeling it a duty of gratitude to state in his own person, and to attest for many others, that Mr. Pratt's disposition to benevolence keeps pace with his beautiful descriptions of it; and that, impelled to the practice of the sympathy and humanity so touchingly painted in almost every production of his pen, he has often been led to a more full tide of good offices to the unfortunate of every denomination, than the dictates of severe prudence might sanction.

J.

DOCTOR HARRINGTON,

OF BATH.

THIS highly respected gentleman is descended from an ancient and illustrious family, not more distinguished by the smiles of fortune, than by superior intellectual possessions; an interesting account of which may be found in a publication of the Doctor's, in 1768, entitled the "Hugo Antiques," being a collection of letters written by his ancestors and their correspondents, in the reigns of the 7th and 8th Henrys, Mary and Elizabeth, Edward the 6th, James the 1st, and Charles the 1st, in four vols. replete with original information and merit. Sir John Harrington, from whom the Doctor more immediately descends, was the son of Mr. Harrington, who married a natural daughter of Henry the 8th, with whom the King gave as dower, the forfeited church lands of Kelston, Catharine, part of Bath-Easton, and Corston, upon which, it is said, he built at Kelston the largest house at that time in Somersetshire. He was a great favourite of Queen Elizabeth's, whom he attended in the tower during the reign of her infatuated and sanguinary sister Mary. She stood godmother for Sir John, his eldest son, who also became a favourite, from his ready wit, pleasantry, and learning. He was esteemed the best English epigram writer of that age, and when very young displayed much ingenuity and judgment in a translation of Ariosto,

Ariosto, the only one of that beautiful poet till Mr. Hoole's, which appeared some years since, and though certainly possessed of much merit, is by no means comparable to Sir John's, to whom, indeed, Mr. Hoole seems much indebted for assistance.—James Harrington, another ancestor of the Doctor's, rendered himself conspicuous in the literary world, by the so justly celebrated Oceana, which is inserted in the preface of the "Hugo Antiques." Indeed Genius seems to have had *many* favourites in this family, and the world will certainly allow that his smiles have been continued to the worthy subject of this memoir, whose delicately enriched taste, and superior knowledge in the enchanting science of music, have so often and so justly been the theme of public admiration.*

Doctor

*The Doctor has, in his possession, some good pictures, and a curious collection of family and other portraits, uncommonly well preserved, of the reigns of Henry 7th and 8th, Queen Elizabeth, James 1st, and Charles 1st. He has an original picture of Queen Elizabeth, when Princess, in the tower, and of Etheldred Tudor Harrington, natural daughter of Henry the 8th; also a portrait of Lord Leicester and Essex, originals, and two of the handsomest of Queen Elizabeth's maids of honour, in their curious apparel in which they appeared at court on the Queen's birth-day. They were rival beauties, and, on the Queen's giving her preference to the beauty of one of them, the other is said to have died of grief and envy.

The Doctor has also a family seal, the date of the year 1279, it belonged to Robertus Dominus de Haverington, Cumberland.

King James the First sent for the Doctor's ancestor Sir John Harrington, to Court, to converse with him, as he heard he was a great

Doctor Harrington was born on Michaelmas day, 1727, at Kelston, Somersetshire. He received his education in his father's house, under the tuition of the late Rev. Dr. Fothergill, father of the present Vicar of Twerton, and brother to the late Provost of Queen's College, Oxford. His father's affairs being much embarrassed, his elder brother was prevailed on to dock the entail of the Kelston estate, an act that ultimately proved ruinous to the whole family, for it might, on account of the Doctor's minority, have been preserved to the present family, his brother having died shortly after the business was effected. At this time the Doctor was received by his uncle, William Harrington, Vicar of Kingston, in Wilts, and under his patronage, entered at Queen's College, Oxford, in the year 1745. During the vacations, he lived with his uncle, a man every way calculated to diffuse knowledge and create emulation; and it is most probable that the Doctor derived much of that elegance, taste, and judgment, which has so conspicuously shown in his compositions, from him. He was highly celebrated for his acquirements in the sciences of music, poetry, and mathe-

a great wit, "Sir John," said the superstitious King, "what do you think is the reason why the devil deals with old women, so that they become witches?" "Please your Majesty," replied the Knight, "I humbly think it is because the devil delights to walk in dry places."

The King talked much to him on theological subjects, and told him when he left him, "that as he had heard Sir John's wit, Sir John had also heard the King's learning, and bid him report it favourably."

matics;

matics; and being a valetudinarian, and his sight much impaired, he often employed his nephew to read to him, a circumstance, that though it must have been extremely profitable to his mind, must also, at times, have been considered as a laborious task; for such was the greediness of his uncle's appetency for learning and information, that he would frequently make him read all night, and commonly till two or three in the morning, not liking to go to bed before day-light.

It was in his uncle's house, and at the age of eighteen or nineteen, that he composed the universally admired duo of "Damon and Clora." He resided there eight years, during which time he often amused himself in writing poetry, chiefly light compositions. About that time there subsisted a strong rivalship between the two Bath theatres, and the Doctor favoured them with several excellent prologues, epilogues, &c. some of which were spoken by the present inimitable actor, Thomas King, at the theatre then under the old assembly rooms. The managers presented him with a free admission ticket to both houses, as a small testimony of their high opinion of his talents, which they considered of great importance to themselves.

During his residence at Kingston, he published an "Ode to Harmony." Elegant in its composition, and intended as a tribute of gratitude to his uncle and aunt, for their exemplary care and attention, and also as a compliment to the uninterrupted affection

in which they had lived for a number of years, and in which he had long participated and delighted.

Shortly after this, and by way of contrast, he published an "Ode to Discord," prefaced with the following line,

"Bombatio, clangor, stridor, taratántara, murmure."

With these, he printed the admired poem of the "Witch of Wokey;" a little piece of such infinite merit, that, on being read by the editor of a collection of fugitive, anonymous poems, (printed a few years ago) it was selected and again given to the public, with a note, that it had been *altered* by the celebrated Gray, author of the Church Yard Elegy. With the admiration of an enthusiast for the poetic powers of Mr. Gray, we cannot but observe, that, if the alterations are his, they are certainly not *improvements*. On the contrary, wherever he has changed a word, he has robbed it of a *beauty*. It is at this time very rare to be met with, we shall, therefore, from a conviction of its gratifying our readers, refer them to Dr. Percy's Relics of Ancient Poetry, in the second volume of which beautiful collection, it will be found, together with some other of our author's ingenious performances.

In the year 1748 the Doctor took his batchelor's degrees, and much about the same time gave up his intention of taking orders, (the only motive for which was, the small living of Kelston, which would become the presentation of his father, after the death

of

of the incumbent, Archdeacon Huddleston, who married his aunt) and commenced the study of physic, in which pursuit he was encouraged by one of his uncles, at that period the most eminent physician in Bath, yet it was only the encouragement of *words*; for, though he was a man empowered, both by fortune and fame, to introduce his amiable relative with eclat to the world, in his professional character, it is a lamentable truth, that his actions towards him were niggardly and illiberal; for, even when declining health made it necessary to have an assistant, he preferred a stranger to his nephew, though, from his very great celebrity, there could have been little doubt of its establishing the young gentleman's medical reputation, and securing to him (in case of death) the entire practice of his uncle. We are wholly at a loss to account for this depravity of heart in the man who first introduced him to study medicine; nor is it necessary to offer any comment, every *just* mind will feel the only one that can be made on such a circumstance.

Dr. Harrington remained at Oxford till he took his degree of master of arts. His college tutor was Dr. George Fothergill, of whom he speaks in the highest terms of praise, and grateful affection. He says, "he was an excellent scholar, a sound logician, a nervous writer, and the best of men; one whose gentleness of mind and manners made his pupils not only respect him as their tutor, but love him as their friend!" The Doctor did all possible honour to his abilities and attentions. He left the college with the

reputation of being one of the first classical scholars, and rich in every species of information necessary to the man of letters and complete gentleman: yet he was more indebted to a highly gifted understanding, (which could, in a moment, see and comprehend all things), than to intense study, of which he was by no means fond, and would often say with the bard, that

> "Study is like the heaven's glorious sun,
> That will not be deep search'd with saucy looks;
> What have continual plodders ever won,
> Save base authority from others books?"

He possessed too much genius to borrow ideas from any man, and felt a pride in being one of the *few* who *could* think for themselves. But though he was not exactly a *book-worm*, he was certainly what the world calls *well read*, and was also a man of strong judgment, and exquisite taste, of which he has since given the world various proofs. At a very early age, he discovered such a thorough knowledge of mathematics, metaphysics, music, and poetry, as astonished his fellow collegians, and created no small degree of jealousy in their minds; many felt ashamed of their inferiority to a *west country boy* (as they called him); for, at that time, Queen's College was chiefly inhabited by gentlemen from the northern counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland, famous for shrewdness of intellect, as well as persevering application, and it was not a little mortifying to find themselves surpassed in learning by one who seemed to take no particular pains about it.

He was fond of mechanical arts, and displayed much

much ingenuity in the construction of several mathematical instruments he made for his own use: in short, his genius was universal, he knew something of every thing, and whatever he undertook, was always successfully accomplished. He was well acquainted with astronomy; but his favourite study and amusement was that enchanting science, whose dulcet charms have power

> "To soothe the savage breast,
> To soften rocks, and bend the knotted oak."

And, though very young and *self-taught*, he was well known, and much admired in the musical world for the delicacy and sweetness of his compositions, and also for his superior taste and execution on the flute. He played the harpsichord, but only to set his music; it was not his favourite instrument; he never performed on it in public.

The celebrated Dr. Hays, of Oxford, father of the late Doctor of that name, founded a club of *gentlemen musicians*, vocal and instrumental, none of whom were permitted to perform, unless they could play and sing at sight. If any gentleman committed a blunder, he was not allowed to continue his performance that evening; and, in order to have them perfect in their different parts, Dr. Hays gave each a bill of the next night's entertainment. By adhering to these rules, this charming society met for many years in *true harmony*. Dr. Harrington soon became a principal ornament to it, and felt delighted in the opportunity it afforded him to become acquainted with the

learned and ingenious Dr. Hays, whose friendship he possessed to the end of his life. He often mentions this musical association with pleasure, and regrets that there are no longer any such; yet it is by no means wonderful, since we find the gentlemen of the present day more inclined to derive amusement from the exertions of professional men (the number of whom are increased ten to one) than their own, where it requires (as in music) so much labour to attain any degree of excellence; and, indeed, if we consider how many claims the world has upon the time of men of fashion and fortune, it will no longer appear a matter of surprize, that very few, so circumstanced, become *proficients* in any of the sciences, at the same time we must remark, with infinite satisfaction, the very great and liberal encouragement they give to those, whose talents and industry merit distinction and reward.*

The

* A catch club, of which the Doctor has been a principal member, had been established at Bath, for several years, at the White Lion, was removed a few years since to the White Hart Inn. About four years ago Mr. Rauzzini, who has, with much talent and liberality, conducted the concerts at Bath above twenty years, had the preceding year lost considerably by conducting that concert. A meeting was held by the subscribers, in order to prevent such a circumstance from happening again the following year; when twelve gentlemen, of large fortune, agreed to undertake the concert that year, and, if there should prove a deficiency, to defray the expences out of their pockets. This was all well, and liberal enough, had they stopt there; but some of them, who came forward (as it should appear from motives of vanity, and who were members of the Catch Club); soon after began to think that they might possibly be a few pounds out of pocket at the end

of

The Doctor has, through life, been a warm and generous patron to all men of musical talents. His own are unequaled even by the profession—a truth that must be *felt* by every lover of taste, elegance, expression, and delicacy; charms that highly characterize all his compositions, which, though so various, are, like the characters of the immortal Shakespear, all *original*. An anthem, which the Doctor composed for thirty-six voices, is, perhaps, one of the

of the season, if the Catch Club continued that winter. They accordingly contrived to get a meeting of some of the subscribers, and voted no Catch Club for that season! Doctor Harrington, who was not consulted, was displeased at what he justly called the mean conduct of these parsimonious regulators. He, therefore, rallied his friends and acquaintance to hold a meeting to totally annihilate the old club, and to create another, under the name of the Harmonic Society. This was effectually carried into execution, and new rules established to put this society upon an infinite better footing than the old Catch Club; it was more liberal, more extensive, and yet much less expensive. The number of subscribers were soon very great; but still they were select, as none but gentlemen of character were proposed and balloted for. Thus many *disagreeables* were for ever cut off from this society. It is now the best musical society in England; and has the Prince of Wales, Duke of York, and many of the first nobility and gentry, members of it. The Doctor contributes much to the harmony of the society, by introducing his own new compositions; and has the pleasure of hearing his old compositions performed in the best manner. This society meets every Friday, during the winter and spring months; and every member has the privilege of bringing a friend. There is a cold supper, and much conviviality after. When supper is finished, the old grace is sung of *non nobis Domine*, which the Doctor always accompanies on the harpsichord. The first toast that is drank is (by a rule enacted), "Doctor Harrington, the founder of the Harmonic Society."

richest specimens of genius and scientific knowledge that has ever appeared since the productions of the sublime Handel, to which alone it is inferior. He has also favoured the pulic with many other anthems, hymns, &c. so truly beautiful, and so justly approved, that they are performed in many places of divine worship. As a profound judge, the Doctor is an enthusiastic admirer of the above incomparable composer, and was deeply offended with the celebrated and ingenious Rauzzini for remarking that "Handel was a good *German* musician enough, but the Italians have *many* Handels." And he very warmly replied, "Not *all* the musicians that Italy ever boasted, put together, could produce the celestial harmony of *his* chorusses." The Doctor's favorite style of composition, and that in which he excels most, is the tender and pathetic. Many of his songs, trios, elegies, &c. possessing all that sweet soft witching of melody that sinks deep into the heart, and gently proves, that

"Music *is* the food of love."

And his poetry according with his notes, give us to believe such is his opinion. Amongst several, whose beauty make it difficult to select any one with preference, may be mentioned, in illustration of this idea, the universally and *justly* admired one of,

"How sweet is the pleasure, how great the delight,
"When soft love and harmony together unite." &c.

The Doctor has also displayed much comic humour in some of his productions; and his "Old Thomas Day" (so inimitably executed by the late celebrated Edwin,

Edwin, of Covent Garden); "Give me the sweet Quaker's Wedding;" "The stammering Song;" and, "The Alderman's Thumb;" have each contributed to his popularity and fame!!!

As a medical character, he has ever been highly respected. He first practised at Wells, in Somersetshire, in the year 1753; whither he went, on his quitting Oxford and marrying the amiable and accomplished Miss Musgrave, with the hope of success, as at that time there was no other physician there. However, after a few years, he found the advantages by no means adequate to the inconveniences attending the situation, and he removed to Bath, where he has continued to practise with private emolument and public honour. His disposition is humane and benevolent; and he is equally loved and respected by all ranks of people. He is at this time Physician to His Royal Highness the Duke of York, and many of the first nobility.*

About

* The Doctor for many years attended the Dowager Lady Trevor, relict of Lord Trevor, and last surviving daughter of the famous Sir Richard Steele. The Doctor speaks of this Lady as possessing all the wit, humour, and gaity of her father, together with most of his faults. She was extravagant, and always in debt; but she was generous, charitable, and humane. She was particularly partial to young people, whom she frequently entertained most liberally, and delighted them with the pleasantry and volubility of her discourse. Her person was like that which her pleasant father describes of himself in the Spectator, with his short face, &c. &c. A little before her death (which was in the month of December) she sent for her Doctor; and, on his entering her chamber, he said, "How fares your Ladyship?" She replied, "Oh!

About four years since, Doctor Harrington received the office of Chief Magistrate of Bath, much to the satisfaction of his fellow citizens, and has ever been found indefatigable in his magesterial capacity as one of the justices.

Doctor Harrington's philanthropy and charity is unbounded; and his humanity to the brute creation extended to so great a degree, that he has left in his will one guinea per annum for an annual sermon, to enforce the practice of humanity to brute animals.

The Bath Humane Society, whether considered in point of rank and number of its members, or of the entertainments it weekly affords, is confessedly the first institution of the kind that is at present in this kingdom. The Doctor is the *father* and founder of this society; and *his* health is one of the only three toasts which are given in the room.

Y. Z.

THE DUCHESS OF GORDON.

IN every rank of society, many are the creatures of imitation; they think and act less from their own judgment and choice than from the examples of those whom they propose to themselves as models.

"Oh! my dear Doctor, ill fare! I am going to break up before the holidays!" This agreeable lady lived many years in Queen's Square, Bath, and, in the summer months, at St. Ann's Hill, Surry, the present residence of the Right Honourable Charles James Fox.

It

It is, therefore, of the highest importance in any circle of society, that the person who gives the tone to its opinions, manners, and pursuits, should be such as best to promote its most beneficial and agreeable purposes. Fashion is closely interwoven with morals and with politics. The pursuits and manners which she prescribes, powerfully influence private integrity, public patriotism and loyalty. In no circle does that imitation, whose influence we have already remarked, operate more powerfully than in high life, and by none are people of that condition more directed than by the Duchess of Gordon. That this is the fact, all those who are acquainted with that rank in society will readily bear testimony. We hope therefore, it will not be unacceptable to our readers to present to them the principal features of this lady's history and character, to mark their operation, the influence it has procured her, and the effects which it has produced.

Sir William Maxwell, Bart. of Monreith, in the county of Lanark, in Scotland, had a large family both of sons and daughters. Of the young ladies, Jane, born in 1750, was one. As they grew up, the Misses Maxwell were distinguished for beauty and intelligence. The influence produced by the one was secured by the other; for both personal and mental qualifications, Miss Jane was peculiarly distinguished. She was eminent for agility and grace in the performance of those exercises which display beauty and symmetry on the one hand; and for the gaiety, spirit, and brilliancy of humour and wit, which

which so agreeably set off acute and vigorous understanding, on the other. At seventeen years of age she captivated the affections of the young Duke of Gordon, then just come of age, and listening to his addresses, became, October 18, 1767, Dutchess of Gordon.

In this station, the agreeable, amiable, and impressive qualities of her Grace, which had before procured her the esteem and admiration of the Caledonian capital, and all those within the circle of her acquaintance, greatly extended the sphere of her influence. Henceforward, those talents and qualities more and more unfolded themselves, which have rendered her BRITISH PUBLIC CHARACTER. She was eminently distinguished for her engaging deportment, for being the life and soul of elegant parties, especially those met for festive amusement. Her sallies of wit enlivened the table, her precepts and example animated the ball-room. She was peculiarly skilled and successful in gladdening life, in diffusing delightful feelings. Wherever she presided, either directly or indirectly, to no member of the company was genial attention wanting. She had the power of making all persons within the sphere of her actions pleased with themselves; a power that in an individual must result from the union of disposition to prompt, with discernment to perceive different cases, and judgment to direct the conduct accordingly. It is not surprising that, so disposed and qualified, her Grace was extremely popular. The writer of this article remembers, that in 1777, he

he one evening happened to be at an inn at Blair, in Athol, near Athol-house, a seat of the Duke of that name; he had hardly arrived when a large party of country gentlemen, with all of whom he was well acquainted, came to the inn from his Grace's mansion; one of their fellow-guests had been the Duchess of Gordon. Her charms, her attention, her manners, her accomplishments, were the theme of universal praise for several hours, and were resumed with equal warmth in the morning. Conversing with the youngest gentleman in the company, but whom he knew to be possessed of very vigorous talents and penetrating discernment, "Pray, Charles," said the writer, "what appears to you to be her Grace's secret for enrapturing your father, and all our worthy friends?" "Careful forbearance of her display of superiority of rank in the distribution of her attentions; no marked consideration of that diversity in others, when met together at the same table; giving every one an opportunity of speaking on a subject, on which he supposed he could speak well; not all her engaging qualifications made such an impression on my father, as a conversation in which he was enabled to bring forward his favourite opinions on planting trees and potatoes, as most beneficial both to gentlemen and the poor. His good neighbour was no less captivated by her Grace's discourse with him on sheep-farms. 'You may depend upon it,' continued the young gentleman, "that her understanding and manners, independent of her face, countenance, and figure, will secure to her an ascendancy in any particular

particular company, in which she happens to be placed, as well as the general circle in which she moves*."

At Athol house her Grace first saw Neil Gow, the father of the present Scotch ball music. To this circumstance may be traced the origin of the introduction of Scotch dancing into the fashionable world, which art the Messrs. Jenkins, father and son, have brought to its present perfection. Her Grace, pleased with the exquisite performance of the Athol musician, proposed to him to attend at Leith races, of which she was to be a spectator the following week. Admiring Neil's style of performance, she thought no less highly of his compositions as peculiarly adapted to the native dances of Scotland. One of his productions, though of too plaintive a cast to prompt the active movements of the Strathspey and reel, yet attracted her Grace's notice, from the taste, genius, and feelings which it exhibited. Though Neil Gow's fame, before the patronage of her Grace, was chiefly provincial, yet where his merit was known it was held in very high estimation. One of his most liberal and munificent patrons was Mr. Moray, of Abercairney, a gentleman of great fortune and distinction, father-in-law to the late eminent Sir William Erskine. Mr. Moray having died about two

* Some remark was made at table concerning the cork rumps then in fashion, especially among ladies, to whom nature had been malignant in certain personal charms. Her Grace, who was not in that predicament, declared she would never encourage such adventitious aids.

months

months before the period at which we are arrived, Neil Gow, in remembrance of his deceased benefactor, composed a delicate and pathetic melody, exhibiting at once, the melancholy of gratitude for ever deprived of its object, and a just and vigorous conception of the modes best adapted to the expression of passion. This piece of music was then, for the first time, performed from the orchestra of Neil's patron, the Duke of Athol, to the exquisite delight of the company, and especially of that illustrious guest who is the subject of our narrative. She thenceforward patronized Neil, and under her protection Scotch music began to rise towards the deserved eminence.

The popularity of her Grace she employed in benefiting her country. When the discomfiture of Burgoyne's army rendered extraordinary exertions necessary, and loyal and patriotic individuals promoted the public service by raising regiments, the Gordon family were among the first to offer their assistance. Her Grace, conscious of the influence which she had acquired among all ranks, determined to employ it in promoting so laudable a purpose. In the very depth of winter, when the gay and splendid season of London was just beginning; when arrangements were making for the elegant parties and festive enjoyments of high life, the fair subject of our narrative left the metropolis, and set out for the cold regions of the Highlands. The presence of a lady, whose affability, condescension, and goodness, they regarded with such gratitude and admiration, inspiring the gallant mountaineers, the corps was soon completed.

completed. This speedy formation of a body of volunteers by one great family, afforded a striking contrast to the difficulty which another, at the same time, experienced from the adoption of compulsory measures. Indeed the different influence of the two families in question, in countries of by no means dissimular manners and sentiments, is a very prominent instance of the impolicy of haughty demeanor and repulsive pride in persons of rank, if they seek influence and power, and the sound wisdom of an agreeable and engaging deportment.

Her Grace having heard of practices that were carried on in a certain part of Scotland, very inconsistent with the rights of British subjects—for instance, confining poor men in cellars, to compel them to *inlist* as soldiers, although there was no act in force at that period of the war that permitted involuntary levies; when she came to London, sometime after, mentioned *that mode of recruiting!* One day she happened to be at a route, where Mr. Fox was present, when she related to the company an anecdote she had heard. It seems, in the regiment, of which part had been levied in the manner we have above mentioned, there was a good deal of contumacy in learning the discipline. It happened at drilling, that a serjeant was very severely beating a poor fellow near a town through which her Grace had to pass in her way to the south. On enquiring what crime had drawn upon the sufferer such severity—"No crime at all, please your Ladyship," replied the serjeant, "this is the way in our corps of making *folunteers.*"

folunteers."—Her Grace, in reciting this story, expressed such sentiments as humanity would dictate on such a subject, and added some observations concerning the *cellars*. Mr. Fox hearing this short narrative, with the accompanied remarks, immediately declared that the conduct of the *principal* in *this species** of recruiting, demanded a serious enquiry, which he would set about instituting. Her Grace intreated him not to proceed on her information, and before he had time or opportunity to investigate the truth through other channels, other public business interfered and prevented the reconsideration of the cellar adventures.

His Grace the Duke of Gordon employed much of his time in the country, in superintending the building of a very large and magnificent house. That undertaking, together with the style in which her Grace's rank in society, and situation in the fashionable world obliged her to live, caused an accu-

* So much of feudal notions then prevailed among the Scotch peasantry, that many of them did not immediately perceive the injustice of such compulsion. The great man in question appeared to have himself entertained an opinion, that he had the disposal of the services of his tenants, and indeed of all poor men who had not power or spirit to defend their own rights. A gentleman of ability, property, and an independent mind in the neighbourhood, gave him a different lesson, as indeed did a peasant who had received part of his education in England; and besides having imbibed sentiments of constitutional liberty, had learned the art of boxing, which he could exercise with the more effect, as he was above six feet high and strongly made. The lessons of this *preceptor* were not without their use; the greater, as the grandee hardly ever studied any other.

mulation of expence, which, notwithstanding the extensive and productive estates of the family, involved them in some temporary difficulties. An arrangement, however, was made, by which it was ascertained, that the embarrassments would not be permanent. With great and exemplary merit, these noble personages submitted to a reduction of establishments and retrenchment of expenditure. For several years, the sum to which they limited themselves for so laudable a purpose, was very small indeed, for their rank and dignity; but even then, as always, her Grace was among the most prominent characters of the fashionable world. When she was later than usual in coming to town, the common complaint among ladies of fashion was, "How dull the town is! Would to heaven the Duchess of Gordon were arrived! We shall have no life, no spirit, till she come."

The great increase of rents, on the expiration of leases, and diminution of incumbrances from rigid adherence to their œconomical plan, brought their income nearer to its former standard, and her Grace now spent the usual time at London. While she had such weight in the fashionable world, she was strictly attentive to domestic duties. On the education of her daughters, five in number, she bestowed great pains, directed by the soundest judgment; taking a comprehensive view of the relation in society in which they stood and were destined to stand; her object was to make them amiable, accomplished, and worthy, a task not difficult, as they were beautiful,

tiful, lovely, and intelligent, but which, without skill and wisdom, even with these natural advantages, might not have been performed. Among the external accomplishments, on which she laid the greatest stress, was dancing, as contributing to health, agility, and grace. The Duchess, who was and is herself an admirable performer, became more and more attached to Scotch dancing, and the appropriate music, as being more conformable to the British character than French. Under her patronage, the sons of her old protegee, Neil Gow, first received that encouragement and attention, which, by making their merits known, rendered their music so generally attractive. The Duchess observed that the Messrs. Gow, to the natural genius of their father, superadded taste and science, and softened the wild vivacity of highland music, without materially deviating from its character. She wished a corresponding improvement might take place in dancing. To effect this object was reserved for the ingenious Mr. Jenkins. On the agility and accurate measures of the highland steps, that gentleman superinduced grace; his improvement in dancing being analogous to that of the Gows in ball music. Her Grace took Mr. Jenkins under her patronage, and was first the means of that recommendation to the public, which his own efforts, and those of his son, improving in effect, as principle, became ascertained by experience, and art was perfected by practice. The character of that delightful exercise, as patronized by the Duchess of Gordon, is ease without negligence,

exactness without stiffness, elegance and grace without pomp or ostentation. This amusement became extremely fashionable, and by occupying the time, formerly too often bestowed on very ruinous pursuits, produced a change by no means unimportant in the fashionable world. Her Grace was the first who brought forward music and dancing at routs, and thus entrenched on the hostile provinces of gaming. Monymusk was heard instead of the dice-box, Lough Erich Side took up the attention that would have been bestowed on vingt-un; reels and Strathspeys took the place of rouge et noir and faro; round games were abandoned for country dances. If the glow of hilarity tends more to beauty than anxiety, avarice or rage; if a fine young woman appear to more advantage interweaving in the animating dance, than with her whole soul wrapt up in the odd trick; if active exercise be more healthy than sedentary employment; if it is better to enjoy innocent pleasure than to lose sums that may involve circumstances or distress relations, then is dancing superior to gaming; and the person who has substituted so delightful a recreation in the place of so pernicious a pursuit, and who has substituted it into those circles in which it chiefly prevailed, and which inferior classes are so apt to copy, has produced a beneficial change in society. Such has resulted from the countenance of the Duchess of Gordon. By diminishing the time and attention bestowed upon gaming, she has immediately benefited fashionable life, and ultimately other ranks in society.

Although

Although the influence of her Grace has produced the most sensible and regular effects in the amusements, recreations, and character of fashion, yet has she occasionally exerted herself with much activity in the political world. From the first public appearance of Mr. Pitt she regarded him with the highest admiration; but though attached to the party that supported him, she was in the habits of friendly intercourse with many of the opposite side. Her liberal mind did not consider identity of political opinion with her own as a necessary constituent in an estimable character. At the time of the King's illness, approving of Mr. Pitt's plan without questioning the integrity of those who having always voted with Mr. Fox adhered to him on that occasion, she with much indignation reprobated those who having professed themselves the King's friends, and eaten his bread, joined the opposite party when they knew it likely to become prevalent. As her Grace, when requisite, expressed sentiments very frankly that she knew to be right, although not perfectly agreeable to some hearers, she was at that time not sparing in her animadversions. She accosted, with very great and just severity, a well-known peripatetic (we do not mean a peripatetic philosopher,) and exposed his conduct in so humourous and strong satire, that it is said she almost recalled to his recollection that there is such a feeling as shame in the human mind.

When the French revolution changed the form and object of parties, her Grace adhering to that which adopted the sentiments of Mr. Burke, occa-

sionally met with persons who viewed it in a different light. Even then, without attacking with indiscriminate acrimony, all those who thought otherwise from herself, she was frequently severe on persons of rank and title, whom in conceiving to wish for the abolition of their own privileges, she considered as guilty of a sort of political suicide. One day a very acute and able nobleman, but by no means so remarkable for external appearance as for intellectual ability, and whose lady was supposed to have been more in love with his title than himself, was advancing some doctrines which she construed to be favourable to levelling principles. "Lord!" said she, "it is very ungrateful of you to abuse titles; to a title you owe your rich wife. Do you think any woman of fortune would have married you if you had been plain ——.

Her Grace very frequently has parties of able politicians to dinner. Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas are of the number of her visitants on such occasions.

The eldest son of their Graces, the Marquis of Huntley, is one of the most elegant young men of the age; acute, accomplished, open, frank, and unassuming, carrying in his handsome, expressive countenance a passport to the heart; a favourite with all that know him, is peculiarly so with Scotsmen, at whose periodical festivals he often presides, and delights those numerous companies by his social, convivial manners and habits. His Lordship began his military career in the 42d or Old Highland regiment. To his native highlands he is extremely partial, and never in higher glee than when enjoying himself at the high-

land

land club*. His Lordship now commands a regiment, at the head of which he distinguished himself in Holland in the engagement at Alkmaar, was wounded, but fortunately for his friends and country, in a slight degree. Lord Huntley is very fond of Scotch music and dancing, and of the latter is one of the best and most graceful performers in the kingdom. The Duchess is extremely fond of this amiable and worthy son. Of the daughters of the family, three have become members of the first houses in England; and one married a respectable Scotch baronet. Lady Charlotte, the eldest, is the wife of Colonel Lennox, heir of the Duke of Richmond. Lady Madelaine, the second, married Sir Robert Sinclair; Lady Susan is Duchess of Manchester; Lady Louisa is the wife of Lord Broome, son and heir of Marquis Cornwallis; and Lady Georgina, equal in beauty, loveliness, and accomplishments, to any of her sisters, now about seventeen, is still unmarried. Their Graces have two sons under age.

Her Grace is somewhat above the middle size, very finely shaped, though now considerably *embonpoint*. Her face is oval, with dark expressive eyes, very regular features, fine complexion, and a most engaging expression.

The Duchess very frequently deals in bon mots; some of them sportive, and some, as we have already seen, strongly and poignantly satirical. Two we just

* Which meets periodically at the Shakespear during the winter.

now recollect, which we shall here annex to our account.—One evening a party of friends being engaged at some amusement resembling questions and commands, it is said that the Marquis being asked what trade he would choose, answered, making garters* for ladies' stockings; and that the Duchess observed, "Ah, George! you would soon be *above* your trade."—One evening her Grace was in company with a gentleman, the correct composition of whose military dispatches had undergone some critical animadversions—"I congratulate you," said the Duchess, "on your talent for writing English poetry." "English poetry!" said he.—"Yes!" said she, "for I am sure what you write is not English prose."

Her Grace had several brothers, of whom, we believe, Sir William Maxwell is now the only one alive. General Maxwell, her second brother, died some years ago, leaving her Grace a considerable legacy. She has two sisters, one of whom is Mrs. Fordyce, the lady of John Fordyce, Esq. formerly a banker in Edinburgh; the other, Lady Wallace, so well known in the fashionable and literary world.

* A certain Scotch methodistical lady, of considerable beauty, was so fond of scripture passages, that she had some of them marked on different parts of her dress. The motto of her garters was, *set your affections on things above.*

DOCTOR

DOCTOR CURRIE,

OF LIVERPOOL.

JAMES CURRIE, M. D. is the only son of a clergyman of the church of Scotland, whose father also exercised the pastoral office in that part of the county of Dumfries, named Annandale. In the *manse*, or parsonage house, which had descended as by inheritance from his grandfather to his father, the subject of the present memoir was born in the year 1756.

The Scottish nation enjoys an invaluable advantage in the institution of parochial schools, where youths receive, upon the easiest terms, the rudiments of a good education. In the school of his parish, and under the inspection of his father, Dr. C. entered upon his grammatical and classical studies. When he had attained the thirteenth year of his age, he was sent to the school of Dumfries, which was then conducted by Dr. Chapman, so well known by his work on education. In Dr. Chapman's house he resided as a boarder; and, after going through the regular course of the school, he continued, under the superintendance of the Doctor, to prosecute his studies in the mathematics. If, from the maturity of a plant, we may form an idea of its early culture, we may be justified in supposing, that Dr. Currie enjoyed considerable advantages in the assiduities of his tutor, and that he improved these advantages to the utmost.

The disposition of the northern Britons to emigrate into climes more promising than their own, has been

so

so frequent a subject of wit, that the shrewdest mode of hinting the fact now scarcely provokes a smile. We shall, therefore, simply state, that Dr. C. participated, with a large portion of his countrymen, in the spirit of adventure, in consequence of which, he went to Virginia, in the service of a company of merchants.

His voyage to the American continent was far from being auspicious. Soon after his arrival, the jealousies which the American states had long entertained of the oppressive projects of the British ministry, stipulated them to publish the most spirited resolutions; in consequence of which, the trade between America and England was entirely interrupted. This circumstance at once clouded the flattering prospects of our young adventurer, who went, at the commencement of the troubles, to reside with a near relation, an eminent physician in the colony.

Mercantile pursuits being thus fatally embarrassed by the agitation of the times, Mr. C. determined to change his views in life, and to adopt the profession of medicine to which he had been originally destined. In pursuance of this design, he resolved to go through a regular course of study, at the University of Edinburgh. He accordingly bid adieu to America, and, as direct communication with Britain was obstructed, he went by way of the West Indies to London. At this busy metropolis he arrived sometime in the course of the year 1776.

After a short stay in London, he repaired to Edinburgh, and began his academic studies. These he prosecuted

prosecuted with great vigour, and unremitting assiduity, till the spring of 1780.

At this period divers cogent reasons urged him to wish to enter into some active employment. His friends encouraged him to hope that he might be appointed on the staff of the army as a physician; and a medical establishment being at that time about to be formed for the army in Jamaica, it was thought advisable that he should stand candidate for the appointment of physician, or assistant physician, to the hospital: but, before solicitation for his appointment could be made with propriety, it was absolutely necessary that the candidate should have taken his degree. Though M. C. had studied at Edinburgh three years, the time necessary to qualify him to apply for the honour of graduation, there are only two days on which medical degrees are conferred in that University. The urgency of the occasion not permitting Mr. C. to wait for the recurrence of the nearest of these days, he took his degree at Glasgow, and immediately began the disagreeable work of soliciting for the appointment which his friends had inspired him with hope of obtaining.

The retired habits of assiduous study, and the scrupulous nicety of a man of elevated mind were but ill calculated to procure the favour of numerous or powerful patrons. From some of the professors of the University, however, and from those of his fellow students with whom he had formed an acquaintance, Dr. Currie was furnished with ample and honourable testimonials, and with the most urgent letters

ters of introduction and recommendation. But, on his arrival in London, he found that the appointment, the object of his wishes, was already disposed of. At the instance of Mr. Surgeon-general Adair, it had been conferred on a young Irish physician, a gentleman of indisputable merit.

Vestigia nulla retrorsum seems to be the motto of the major part of the men of talents who quit the barren mountains of Caledonia. The Doctor being disappointed in his hopes of preferment in the medical staff, resolved, at all events, to go to Jamaica, and attempt to establish himself in that island as a physician. He accordingly took his passage in a vessel which was expected soon to sail in company with a numerous fleet. Various circumstances delayed the sailing of this fleet, and, consequently, caused the Doctor to pass the summer of 1780 in London.

During this interval of delay, he was encouraged by his friends, whose numbers and zeal encreased in proportion as he was known, to think of settling as a physician in some part of England. In the course of his enquiries after an eligible situation, he visited various places. At length, in the latter end of 1780, a vacancy being occasioned in the medical profession at Liverpool, by the removal of Dr. Dobson to Bath, Dr. C. repaired to the former place, where he soon met with very great encouragement.

In the year 1783 he married the daughter of a very respectable merchant of the town of Liverpool.

In the ensuing year, his growing usefulness was very seriously impeded by a dangerous illness, which

was

was occasioned by the exertions and anxieties of friendship.

The most affectionate intimacy subsisted between him and the ingenious Dr. Bell, then resident at Manchester. During an alarming illness of his friend, which unfortunately terminated in his death, Dr. Currie paid him several visits. The fatigue occasioned by the rapid mode in which a physician of rising practice, is in a manner obliged to make distant journies, occasioned an inflammatory fever, which reduced him to the greatest extremity. The disorder settling on his lungs, brought on a cough, which for a long time threatened consumption. This illness disabled him from prosecuting his practice for at least the space of six months.

Though the event which has just been mentioned is, in reality, an event of serious importance in the life of a medical gentleman, it would not, perhaps, have been recorded in these memoirs, did it not give occasion to refer to a very interesting account of the Doctor's case, which was written by himself, and communicated to Dr. Darwin, who inserted it in the 2d volume of his Zoonomia, p. 293. Dr. Darwin introduces it with the following respectful notice of the author.

"The following case of hereditary consumption is related by a physician of great ability and very extensive practice; and, as it is his own case, abounds with much nice observation and useful knowledge; and, as it has been attended with a favourable event, may give consolation to many who are in a similar situation,

situation, and shews that Sydenham's recommendation of riding as a cure for consumption is not so totally ineffectual as is now commonly believed."

The first exertion which Dr. C. made on the commencement of his recovery, was occasioned by his zeal to pay the tribute of affection to the memory of his deceased friend. He had received a request* from the Literary Society of Manchester, that he would translate the Inaugural Dissertation of Dr. Bell, and prefix to his translation, Memoirs of the Author's Life. This request was transmitted to him† in the month of February, 1784; but so long was the continuance of his debilitating illness, that the papers in question were not communicated to the society till March, 1785.

In publishing the Memoirs of Dr. Bell, Dr. Currie may be regarded as making his first appearance in the character of an author. In the memoirs themselves, however, there is not the least trace of internal evidence of a first appearance. The style is maturely formed, and possesses a correctness which is hardly to be expected but from the pen of a practised writer. Indeed it has not been excelled by the happiest of its author's subsequent writings. The concluding summary of Dr. Bell's character is a model of nice discrimination, and evinces a most accurate knowledge of the general principles of human nature. The delicate, yet exact, manner in which the defective traits of Dr. Bell's character are touched, beautifully exem-

* Memoirs of Manchester Society, vol. ii. p. 397.

† Vide Memoirs ut supra.

plifies

plifies the sternness of truth, controling the partial pencil of affection.

The inhabitants of the town of Liverpool have been long distinguished by the liberality with which they patronize charitable institutions. In the year 1785, a proposal was made to connect with the public Infirmary (of which Dr. C. was one of the physicians) an asylum for the reception of lunatics. This project the Doctor warmly recommended, in a letter which he published in Gore's Liverpool Advertiser, in the month of August, 1789. In a subsequent letter, dated October 15, 1789, he answered the objections which had been advanced against the proposed establishment. Both these letters are distinguished by luminousness of method, and chastity of style. The latter may be justly cited as an example of the candid and temperate discussion of a practical question of great importance—an example, alas! of rare occurrence: for, in these times of turbulence, discord mars the wisest and most benevolent projects; creating disorder not only on the grand arena of national contention, but on the petty stage of parochial litigation.

The friends of humanity will be happy to be informed, that the institution in question met with the most liberal patronage, and that the author of these memoirs had the satisfaction, on paying a visit to Liverpool, in the year 1791, to see, among other monuments of the munificent spirit of the inhabitants of that flourishing mart of commerce, a handsome and well planned edifice, fitted up for the reception of

of those who suffer under the pressure of the worst of human ills—"the mind diseased."

The Medical Society of London having elected Dr. C. one of their body, he communicated to them a paper on tetanus and convulsive disorders, which was read on the 10th of May, 1790, and published in the 3d volume of their memoirs. In this valuable communication, the Doctor recites the history of seven cases—the first and last of which are singularly curious and interesting. The paper is closed by a few judicious remarks.

In the year 1792, Dr. C. presented to the Royal Society *an Account of the remarkable Effects of a Shipwreck on the Mariners, with Experiments and Observations on the Influence of Immersion in fresh and salt Water, hot and cold, on the Powers of the living Body.* This paper was inserted in the Philosophical Transactions of the year in which it was received, and procured its author the honour of admission into the very respectable literary corporation to which it was communicated.

In the year 1798, Dr. C. laid before the public the result of much study and accurate observation, in a volume of *Medical Reports on the Effects of Water, cold and warm, as a remedy in Fever, and other Diseases.* The favourable reception which this publication experienced, in the medical world, is sufficiently evinced, by its having speedily advanced to a second edition, and by its having been translated into the German and French languages.

However delicate the topic may be, it is impossible to

to avoid adverting, on the present occasion, to the famous pamphlet, published in the year 1793, under the signature of Jasper Wilson. This pamphlet was universally ascribed to Dr. C.: and notwithstanding the illiberal but dangerous abuse heaped upon him by the defenders of ministry, which it would have been rashness to encounter without cause—and notwithstanding the high eulogiums which the credit of this book has procured him from the opponents of ministry, which it would have been natural for him to disclaim had his title to them been null: he has not, publicly, at least, disavowed the publication.

It is not a matter of surprize, that the celebrity of the putative author should have made Jasper Wilson's Letter to Mr. Pitt an object of extraordinary attention. The letter appeared at an awful crisis. The unguarded violence of the British partizans of revolutionary principles had drawn down upon their heads the asperity of ministerial vengeance, and the indignation of the public. Various convictions of persons accused of sedition, followed up by severe punishments, had alarmed all descriptions of the opponents of ministry. Serious warnings, indeed, were given to the *enragés*, and the more moderate were aware of the immense advantage which Mr. Pitt had gained, by identifying his administration with the constitution, and persuading the people, that an attack upon the former was an infringement on the latter. At this crisis great confidence was given to the friends of peace by the appearance of a letter, the author of

which, while he paid due respect to the principles of the constitution, freely and ably impugned the conduct of ministry in protracting the war, when its avowed objects, the protection of Holland, and the recapture of Brabant, had been obtained, and when the French were suing for peace. So rapid was the circulation of this pamphlet, that, in a very short space of time, it passed through three editions. If the anti-ministerialists spread the fame of J. W.'s letter by the loudness of their applause, the ministerialists contributed their full share to its celebrity by the vehemence of their abuse. This abuse, however, has not provoked a reply. In the rapid course of events, scenes more and more awful have arrested public attention, and J. W,'s letter may now be in a manner regarded as a tale of the times of old. It may now, perhaps, be examined with a dispassionate eye, and acknowledged to be a production worthy of a gentleman and a scholar; and though time, that tries all things, has, in some degree, confuted the commercial speculations of its author, yet the lapse of events has fatally proved, that his political predictions originated in the sagacity of a comprehensive mind.

It has been announced, in several literary journals, that Dr. C. is at present employed in writing the life of the celebrated Robert Burns, which is to be prefixed to a complete collection of the works of that astonishing genius, soon to be published for the benefit of his family. The Doctor is happy in a subject which will call into exercise accuracy of judgment

ment and delicacy of taste—nor is the deceased bard less fortunate in a biographer whose talents, it may be presumed, will do ample justice to his memory.

M. N.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.*

FRANCIS RUSSELL, Duke of Bedford, succeeded to that title in the year 1771, on the death of the late Duke, his grandfather; at which time he was only seven years of age. He lost both his parents about four years before; his father, the Marquis of Tavistock, having been killed by a fall from his horse in hunting, and the Marchioness dying not long after, from the effects of that melancholy event on her constitution, already extremely delicate.

One naturally trembles for the future moral worth, and intellectual excellence, of a youth in the situation of the Duke of Bedford on coming to his title; and, perhaps, the danger to his Grace was not a little increased, by his being left solely to the care of a grandmother (the late Duchess Dowager of Bedford), who scarcely placed any bounds to her fondness for him. The effects of the young Duke's situation soon appeared. He was sent to Westminster school, and taken home again on some cause of disgust, before

* This illustrious family may be traced back as far as the 5th year of Henry III. when one of their ancestors was constable of Corfe Castle, and many of them have filled, at various times, the most important offices of the state.

he had acquired those rudiments of learning that were to prepare him for the greater attainments becoming his station. That he acquired them at home is not to be doubted, from the figure he has since made; but the chances were against him. A public school is a useful scene for a boy of his Grace's rank and fortune; since it, in some degree, corrects the partialities and mistakes of those about him when at home. His Grace went to the University with the disadvantage of not being known for proficiency in such learning as young men carry to College: but he made a name for himself there, by his application and progress; and gained the esteem both of his fellow-students, and of all those who had the superintendance of their conduct.

Previous to the entrance of his Grace into life, a singular method is said to have been taken to secure him against the practices of the knaves of all ranks who prey on unwary youths of fortune. He was placed, according to common fame, under the guardianship and tuition of a nobleman advanced in years, and well known for his knowledge of the world, and his acquaintance with the wiles of gamblers. It is scarcely possible to devise a more dangerous expedient for such a case: but the Duke of Bedford escaped unhurt by the folly of the experiment, if it was really made; it being acknowledged that play has no other hold on his mind than that of an amusement kept within its due bounds.

When his Grace went on the tour of Europe, a circumstance occurred as singular, in its place, as the

the above. He was accompanied by a lady, who was certainly a woman of cultivated talents and amiable manners, but who, in other respects, scarcely seemed to be a suitable companion for a young man actually travelling for improvement. But it ought to be stated, as a fact equally honourable to the Lady and his Grace, that he rather derived benefit than injury from this very extraordinary appendage of his travels.

After the Duke of Bedford returned from his tour, those who had calculated only on the disadvantages of his earliest years, and to whom no opportunities had arisen to observe the characteristic qualities of his mind, were surprized to see his powers in their gradual development. His Grace's name was regarded, first with respect, and afterwards with admiration. His rank, fortune, and influence, made him a prize for ministry to contend for, and which they did not fail to try all means of securing. But, although the greater number of his relations, the Dukes of Marlborough and Dorset, Lord Stafford, and others, were on the side of ministry, his Grace wisely preferred being the friend and coadjutor of men, than whom no greater or more excellent ever adorned history, to the leaguing himself with profligacy possessing all the power of the state.

If ministers could not gain the Duke of Bedford from his country, and a small but illustrious band acting in its cause, they could attempt to degrade him in the estimation of the world, by petty artifices, such as their hirelings are dexterous in applying. They

have, however, found nothing to tax his Grace with, except meanness of spirit in his economy. On this side, there is something in the Duke of Bedford's character that is almost peculiar to himself. Having no regard for the accumulation of money, and actually despising it except for useful purposes, he has a habit of minute attention to his expenditure, and a lively abhorrence of the rapacity of such as make an employment of plundering persons in his situation. In truth, a man has little cause of quarrel with fame, of whom nothing worse is said than this—*that, with high rank and immense fortune, he has not slid, as is customary with such personages, into the character of the dupe of menial servants, and of fawning greedy tradesmen.* There is firmness and strength in this part of the Duke's habits; whether his enemies are too shallow to perceive the truth, or affect to overlook it. It is a very common saying, that facts are stubborn things; but they are very stubborn notwithstanding. His Grace may well desire to be tried by them. He is known to have furnished his party with large sums, and if something is to be ascribed to party spirit, all cannot be taken away from munificence; he contributed, in a manner becoming his circumstances, to the noble design of relieving a great character from the petty embarrassments of pecuniary affairs; and if the time of that transaction be considered, it will be found unequivocal enough; but, to render all other examples unnecessary, it need only be added, that he made settlements on his younger

younger brothers, left unprovided for, and still holds his coffers to be their bank, as sincerely as he takes them for his own.

The Duke of Bedford's talents are of the higher order. His parliamentary speeches are distinguished by that quantity of rectitude which seldom belongs to any but strong minds; and that solidity, which is never acquired without labour accompanied with native capacity. There is a kind of taste in the Duke of Bedford's speeches that is grateful to the scholar and philosopher. His speeches on the *secession*, and on the *assessed tax bill*, are well known, and do not want our commendation: but, in some of his Grace's speeches, made on occasions deemed slight, and scarcely noticed, yet giving opportunity to the philanthropist to attempt something for his fellow-creatures, he has afforded great delight to close observers of human conduct. In a debate on a divorce bill before the Lords, when he supported a motion, *to make it an indispensable clause of every divorce bill, in future, to provide for the unhappy female, according to circumstances*, his Grace distinguished himself as a man of a generous nature, and having comprehensive views of the moral relations in society.

We are now to turn to that part of the Duke of Bedford's character in which he will be allowed, by foes as well as friends, to surpass every man of rank in this country.

Instead of wasting his life in dissipation, indolence, or gaming, his Grace has found, that he can be happy without ruining his health and fortune, in

corrupting the morals and injuring the property of his fellow creatures; that he can experience real pleasures in projecting and executing experiments for the benefit of mankind; and can walk about his farm at Woburn, and enjoy the satisfaction of seeing two or three thousand men usefully employed, and themselves and their families rendered comfortable and happy by his bounty. It, indeed, is the highest eulogy of every nobleman and gentleman, to be beloved and adored in the vicinity of his country seat, where his genuine character is necessarily the best known.

The well-cultivated farm which the Duke keeps in his own management, consists of about 3000 acres, exclusively of his extensive park. This park is nearly 20 miles in circumference, and it supports a great stock of sheep and young cattle besides a large herd of fine deer. Within the park is situated the new farm yard, in which is found every conveniency and modern improvement; particularly a threshing machine worked by horses or oxen from two to six in number, and which is capable of threshing and dressing seven quarters every hour, and of grinding and dressing the flour at the same time. Adjoining to this machinery is a malt house, and on the outside of the several yards are stables, barns, and sheds, with shops for carpenters, joiners, smiths, wheelwrights, &c. &c. The pig-sties are so clean that they would put many a cottager to the blush for want of cleanliness in their little habitations. In the yard are two good dwelling-houses for the bailiffs.

The

The implements are those of the best construction and newest invention, and they consist of all kinds of plows and harrows, rollers, chaff-cutting machines, &c.; among them is Mr. Salmon's chaff-cutter, which is admired for its simplicity, and for its capacity of being worked either by men, horses, or water. To all improvements in implements of husbandry, his Grace is a liberal patron. This unparalleled farm yard is in every respect admirable for its completeness, neatness, and utility.

To detail the variety of his Grace's farming pursuits, to enumerate his plans, and to follow him in all the public meetings and societies which he conducts or patronizes, would alone occupy a very interesting volume.

Among other extraordinary exertions he has selected and improved, with judgment and perseverance, two distinct stocks of sheep; one of them the favourite South Down breed, that was formerly peculiar to Sussex, but which is now spreading fast over every part of the kingdom; the other, the new Leicestershire or Bakewell breed, nearly as much esteemed as the former. These two stocks on his Grace's extensive domain, are kept entirely separate, under the management of different shepherds and different bailiffs.

In cattle, his Grace advances with rapid strides towards perfection. He has selected with extraordinary discernment, the valuable breeds which are found in Herefordshire, Devonshire, and Sussex, and has drawn together from those counties, the most valuable

ble individuals. He encourages the use of oxen, and frequently attends the neighbouring fairs and markets; and examines the cattle and sometimes the shambles, to inspect the quality of the meat. With the farmers he is exceedingly familiar and communicative on agricultural topics.

In the practice of irrigation his Grace has been very successful, and he has evinced its wonderful effects upon several hundred acres of land. The enclosures of common fields have afforded him the opportunity of bringing into a high state of cultivation, some thousand acres of land, which would otherwise have been for ever useless.

Of the grand annual sheepshearings, held at Woburn, some account will naturally be expected. These festivals continue several days, and the visitors, from one to two hundred noblemen and gentlemen farmers, are all the time hospitably entertained and usefully amused; the examination of the stock, of the implements, of the improvements in the grounds, and the adjudication of premiums for cattle and sheep, and ploughing, with agricultural conversation, are the sources of information and employment. Each day and hour has its allotted business: the bell for breakfast rings at nine; an excursion occupies the time till three, when the dinner is served up in the great hall; coffee and horses at six are the signal for another excursion, till the close of day light, when the company return to supper. At the last sheepshearing, in June, 1799, from a hundred to a hundred and ninety sat down to dinner for five days successively,

cessively, and there were present the Duke of Manchester, the Marquis of Bath, the Earls of Egremont, Lauderdale, and Winchelsea, the Lords Sherborne, Preston, Ludlow, John, William, and Robert Russel, the President and Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, the President of the Royal Society, and a great assemblage of gentlemen of fortune, of farmers, breeders, and graziers, from every part of the kingdom. Hospitality could not be more nobly, or more usefully exerted than on this occasion, by his Grace of Bedford, from whose magnificent mansion, and highly cultivated farm, every one went away equally well pleased and instructed.

Meetings of this kind are not only praise-worthy in a public light, but in the end cannot fail to prove of high advantage to the individual estate on which they are held. Every man of large landed property is interested in following the wise example of the Duke of Bedford, over and above the grateful reflection, that, like him, he will also deserve well of his country.

MR. COWPER.

(WITH SOME ORIGINAL PIECES OF HIS POETRY.)

IT has been frequently observed, that the life of a man of genius is marked by few incidents. The mind, which grows up amidst the privacies of ſtudy, and the character, which is framed by ſolitary meditation,

tation, belong in a great degree to a world of their own, from which the passions and events of ordinary life are equally excluded. There is, therefore, nothing very remarkable in the life of the poet to whom these pages are devoted. But in the history of those who have done honour to the English nation, and added richness to the English language, no circumstance is trifling, and no incident unworthy of record; especially, as there is a sort of sanctity attached to these men, which diffuses itself to the minutest transaction in which they have been concerned.

Mr. Cowper was born at Berkhamstead, in Buckinghamshire, his father being the incumbent of the living of that place. Our poet is descended from the first Earl Cowper Lord Chancellor of England, his grandfather being one of the children of that nobleman.

Mr. Cowper received his education at Westminster school; and a place of considerable profit, that of the clerkship to the House of Lords, a patent office, and which had been a considerable time in the family, was reserved for him. But upon his quitting school and entering into the Temple, he found himself reluctant to undertake a function of activity and business. His native love of retirement, a constitutional timidity of mind, and the languor of a very weak and precarious state of health, discouraged him from undertaking the duties of a situation, which required the most unremitting attention and diligence.

About this time, he lived in habits of close and familiar

familiar communication with Dr. Cotton, the elegant and ingenious author of the Fire-Side. His intimacy with this gentleman must, in no inconsiderable degree, have contributed to his inclination for poetry, by the instructions and example of his friend. But the first foundation of his poetic excellence was laid by his familiarity with the best and most unaffected authors of antiquity.

At Huntingdon, a place in which he resided for a few years, he contracted a strong friendship with the Rev. Mr. Unwin, and on the death of that gentleman, accompanied his widow to Olney. It was in this village, and about this period of his life, that Mr. Cowper produced the earliest compositions that are traced to his pen. The poems he wrote upon this occasion, were hymns published in a collection called the Olney Hymns, and distinguished by the letter C. They bear internal evidence of a cultivated understanding, and an original genius. His time was now wholly dedicated to that literary leisure, in which the mind, left to its own operations, pursues that line of pursuit, which is the most congenial to its taste, and the most adapted to its powers. In his garden, in his library, and in his daily walks, he seems to have disciplined his muse to the picturesque and vivid habits of description, which will always distinguish Cowper among our national poets. No writer, with the exception only of Thomson, seems to have studied nature with more diligence, and to have copied her with more fidelity. An advantage which he has gained over other men, by his disdaining

ing to study her "through the spectacles of books," as Dryden calls it, and by his pursuing her through her haunts, and watching her in all her attitudes, with the eye of a philosopher as well as of a poet.

Mr. Cowper had no propensity for public life; it was not, therefore, singular that he should have neglected the study of the law, on which he had entered. That knowledge of active life, which is so requisite for the legal profession, would scarcely be acquired in lonely wanderings on the banks of the Ouse, and in silent contemplations of the beauties of nature. In this retreat, he exchanged, for the society and converse of the muses, the ambition and tumult of a forensic life; dedicating his mind to the cultivation of poetry, and storing it with those images, which he derived from the inexhaustible treasury of a rich and varied scenery in a most beautiful and romantic country.

The first volume of poems, which he published, consists of various pieces, on various subjects. It seems that he had been assiduous in cultivating a turn for grave and argumentative versification, on moral and ethical topics. Of this kind is the Table Talk, and several other pieces in the collection. He, who objects to these poems as containing too great a neglect of harmony in the arrangement of his words, and the use of expressions too prosaic, will condemn him on principles of criticism, which are by no means just, if the object and style of the subject be considered. Horace apologized for the carelessness of his own satires, which are, strictly speaking, only ethical and moral

moral discourses, by observing that those topics required the *pedestrian*, and familiar diction, and a form of expression, not elevated to the heights of poetry. But, if the reader will forego the delight of smooth versification, and recollect that poetry does not altogether consist in even and polished metre, he will remark in these productions no ordinary depth of thinking and of judgment, upon the most important objects of human concernment; and he will be occasionally struck with lines, not unworthy of Dryden for their strength and dignity.

The lighter poems are well known. Of these, the verses supposed to be written by Alexander Selkirk, on the island of Juan Fernandez, are in the most popular estimation. There is great originality in the following stanza.

> I am out of humanity's reach;
> I must finish my journey alone;
> Never hear the sweet music of speech;
> I start at the sound of my own.

It would be absurd to give one general character of the pieces that were published in this volume: yet this is true concerning Mr. Cowper's productions; that in all the varieties of his style there may still be discerned the likeness and impression of the same mind; the same unaffected modesty which always rejects unseasonable ambitions and ornaments of language; the same easy vigour; the same serene and cheerful hope derived from a steady and unshaken faith in the dogmas of christianity.

I am not prepared to affirm that Mr. Cowper derives

rives any praise from the choice and elegance of his words; but he has the higher praise of having chosen them without affectation. He appears to have used them as he found them; neither introducing fastidious refinements, nor adhering to obsolete barbarisms. He understands the whole science of numbers, and he has practised their different kinds with considerable happiness; and if his verses do not flow so softly as the delicacy of á modern ear requires, that roughness, which is objected to his poetry, is his choice, not his defect. But this sort of critics, who admire only what is exquisitely polished, these lovers of "gentleness without sinews,"* ought to take into their estimate that vast effusion of thought which is so abundantly poured over the writings of Mr. Cowper, without which human discourse is only an idle combination of sounds and syllables.

Let me hasten, however, to that work which has more peculiarly given to Cowper the character of a poet. After an interval of a few years, his Task was ushered into the world. The occasion that gave birth to it was a trivial one. A lady had requested him to write a piece in blank verse, and gave him the sofa for his subject. This he expanded into one of the finest moral poems of which the English language has been productive.

It is written in blank verse, of which the construction, though in some respects resembling Milton's, is yet original and characteristic. It is not too stately for familiar description, nor too depressed for sublime

* Dr. Sprat's Life of Cowley.

and

and elevated imagery. If it has any fault, it is that of being too much laden with idiomatic expression, a fault which the author, in the rapidity with which his ideas and his utterance seem to have flowed, very naturally incurred.

In this poem his fancy ran with the most excursive freedom. The poet enlarges upon his topics, and confirms his argument by every variety of illustration. He never, however, dwells upon them too long, and leaves off in such a manner, that it seems, it was in his power to have said more.

The arguments of the poem are various. The works of nature, the associations with which they exhibit themselves, the designs of Providence, and the passions of men. Of one advantage the writer has amply availed himself. The work not being rigidly confined to any precise subject, he has indulged himself in all the laxity and freedom of a miscellaneous poem. Yet he has still adhered so faithfully to the general laws of congruity, that whether he inspires the softer affections into his reader, or delights him with keen and playful raillery, or discourses on the ordinary manners of human nature, or holds up the bright pictures of religious consolation to his mind, he adopts, at pleasure, a diction just and appropriate, equal in elevation to the sacred effusions of Christian rapture, and sufficiently easy and familiar for descriptions of domestic life; skilful alike in soaring without effort and descending without meanness.

He who defires to put into the hands of youth a poem which, not destitute of poetic embellishment, is free from all matter of a licentious tendency, will

find in the Task a book adapted to his purpose. It would be the part of an absurd and extravagant austerity, to condemn those poetical productions in which the passion of love constitutes the primary feature. In every age that passion has been the concernment of life, the theme of the poet, the plot of the stage. Yet there is a sort of amorous sensibility, bordering almost on morbid enthusiasm, which the youthful mind too frequently imbibes from the glowing sentiments of the poets. Their genius describes, in the most splendid colours, the operations of a passion which requires rebuke instead of incentive, and lends to the most grovelling sensuality the enchantments of a rich and creative imagination. But in the Task of Cowper, there is no licentiousness of description. All is grave, and majestic, and moral. A vein of religious thinking pervades every page, and he discourses, in a strain of the most finished poetry, on the insufficiency and vanity of human pursuits.

Nor is he always severe. He is perpetually enlivening the mind of his reader by sportive descriptions, and by representing, in elevated measures, ludicrous objects and circumstances, a species of the mock-heroic, of which Philips* was the first author. In this latter sort of style Mr. Cowper has displayed great powers of versification, and great talents for humour. Of this, the historical account he has given of chairs, in the first book of the Task, is a striking specimen.

The attention, however, is the most detained by those passages, in which the charms of rural life, and

* The Splendid Shilling.

the

the endearments of domestic retirement, are pourtrayed. It is in vain to search in any poet of antient or modern times for more pathetic touches of representation. The Task abounds with incidents, introduced as episodes, and interposing an agreeable relief to the grave and serious parts of the poetry. Who has not admired his crazy Kate? A description in which the calamity of a disordered reason is painted with admirable exactness and simplicity.

"She begs an idle pin of all she meets."

I know of no poet who would have introduced so minute a circumstance into his representation; yet who is there that does not perceive that it derives its effect altogether from the minuteness with which it is drawn?

It were an endless task to point out the beauties of the poem. It is now established in its reputation, and, by universal consent, it has given Cowper a very high place amongst our national poets. Let those who cannot perceive its beauties, dwell with rapture on its defects. The taste or the sensibility of that man is little to be envied who, in the pride of a fastidious criticism, would be reluctant in attributing to Mr. Cowper, the praise and character of a poet, because in the tide and rapidity of his fancy he has not been scrupulous in the arrangement of a word or the adjustment of a cadence.

The next work, which Mr. Cowper published, was a translation of the Iliad, and the Odyssey. The design was worthy of his talents. His object was to present the father of poesy to the English reader, not in English habiliments, and modern attire, but

in the graceful and antique habit of his own times. He therefore adopted blank verse. Rhyme, by the uniformity of its cadence, and the restrictions which it imposed, rendered the task of translation evidently a paraphrase, because the poet, who could not express the meaning of his author in phrase, and diction, that would accord with his own numbers, must be, of necessity, compelled to mix his own meaning with his Author's, to soften, and dilute it, as it were, to his own versification. This is the disadvantage of Mr. Pope's Homer; a work, which it were blasphemy to despise, and folly to undervalue, while variety and harmony of numbers retain their dominion over the mind of man. Yet no one will deny, that Mr. Pope has frequently forgotten Homer; and that in some passages he has impaired the strength, and debased the majesty of his original. Let it be remembered, however, that it is no mean honour to any poet to have followed the bold and lofty steps of the divine bard; and that he is not to be censured, though he should lag behind him in his course through that sublime region, which Homer only could tread with safety, and with confidence.

Quid enim contendat hirundo
Cycnis? aut quidnam tremulis facere artubus hoedi
Consimile in cursû possint ac fortis equi vis. LUCRET.

It is a wanton and foolish criticism to compare the translation of Mr. Pope with that of Mr. Cowper. The merits of each are distinct and appropriate. Mr. Pope has exhibited Homer as he would have sung, had he been born in England. Mr. Cowper has attempted to pourtray him, as he wrote in Greece,

adhering

adhering frequently to the peculiarities of his own idiom, and endeavouring to preserve his strength and energy, as well as his harmony and smoothness.

There are several fugitive pieces by Mr. Cowper which have not yet been published. I shall close this article by presenting two of them to the reader.

The poplars are fell'd, and adieu to the shade,
And the whispering sound of the cool colonade;
The winds play no longer, and sing in their leaves,
Nor the Ouse, on its surface, their image receives.

Twelve years had elaps'd since I last took a view
Of my favourite field, and the place where they grew;
When, behold, on their sides, in the grass they were laid,
And I sate on the trees under which I had stray'd.

The blackbird has sought out another retreat,
Where the hazels afford him a screen from the heat;
And the scene where his notes have oft charmed me before,
Shall resound with his smooth-flowing ditty no more.

My fugitive years are all hasting away,
And I must myself lie as lowly as they,
With a turf at my breast, and a stone at my head,
E're another such grove rises up in its stead.

The change both my heart and my fancy employs;
I reflect on the frailty of man and his joys;
Short liv'd as we are, yet our pleasures we see,
Have a still shorter date, and die sooner than we.

FROM THE ANNUAL BILL OF MORTALITY, NORTHAMPTON.

— Placidiq: ibi demum morte quievit. VIRG.
Then calm at length he breath'd his soul away.

"Oh most delightful hour by man
"Experienc'd here below;
"The hour that terminates his span,
"His folly and his woe.

" Worlds should not bribe me back to tread
" Again life's dreary waste;
" To see my days again o'erspread
" With all the gloomy past.

" My home, henceforth, is in the skies,
" Earth, seas, and sun adieu;
" All heaven unfolded to my eyes,
" I have no sight for you."

Thus spake Aspatio, firm possest
Of Faith's supporting rod;
Then breath'd his soul into its rest,
The bosom of his God.

He was a man among the few
Sincere on Virtue's side,
And all his strength from scripture drew,
To hourly use apply'd.

That rule he priz'd, by that he fear'd,
He hated, hop'd, and lov'd,
Nor ever frown'd, or sad appear'd,
But when his heart had rov'd.

For he was frail as thou or I,
And evil felt within,
But when he felt it, heav'd a sigh,
And loath'd the thought of sin.

Such liv'd Aspatio, and at last
Call'd up from earth to heav'n;
The gulph of death triumphant pass'd
By gales of blessing driven.

His joys be MINE, each reader cries,
When my last hour arrives:
They shall be yours, my verse replies,
Such ONLY be your lives.

MISS

MISS LINWOOD.

WERE any sculptor of the present day to give to his figures the correctness and character, energy and ease, which we see displayed in those unrivalled models of ancient art which were wrought in Greece, we should class him as the Shakespeare of his profession, conceive that he had discovered the scale by which some writers have supposed the ancient sculptors performed these prodigies of art, and venerate his name for having restored an art the world had long lost, and despaired of retrieving.

A portion of the praise which would be bestowed on such a man, is certainly due to the Lady whose name is at the head of this article, for she has awakened from its long sleep, an art which gave birth to painting, and the needle is, in her hands, become a formidable rival to the pencil. She has realised, in the most glowing colours, those splendid wonders that were recorded by Homer, and other ancient poets; for that *the labours of the loom*, so often alluded to by bards of other days,

"When purple hangings cloth'd the palace walls,"

were *the art of making pictures in tapestry*, there can be no doubt.

The progress of this branch of the arts in Great Britain is curious. In the first samples, or rather samplers, when it was in its infancy, we see the Lord's prayer, or the ten commandments, surmounted by Adam and Eve

Eve in the garden of Eden, or Daniel in the den of the lions; which, in massy Gothic frames, were wont to decorate the walls of our ancient gentry. The first curious pieces of needle-work that I recollect to have seen recorded, are a suite of chair bottoms, worked by, and under the direction of, Queen Mary, consisting of some heavy trophies in honour of her heroic husband. These were, probably, laboured, loaded, and tasteless, and almost all the early specimens that we have seen may be very fairly put in the same class.

Since the accession of our present king, the art has awakened from its long sleep. In the beginning of his reign, the wife of Worlidge, the painter, copied some prints in needle-work, which, though dry and feeble, excited attention, and were noticed in some of the public prints of that day by complimentary verses, &c. The lines that follow will, I believe, be thought a sufficient specimen: they were printed in the Public Advertiser.

ON SEEING MRS. WORLIDGE COPY A LANDSCAPE IN NEEDLE-WORK.

At Worlidge's as late I saw,
A female artist sketch and draw;
Now take a crayon, now a pencil,
Now thread a needle—strange utensil!
I hardly could believe my eyes,
To see hills, houses, steeples, rise;
While crewel o'er the canvas drawn,
Became a river or a lawn.
Thought I, it was not said thro' malice,
That Worlidge was obliged to Pallas;

For

For sure such art can be display'd
By none, except the blue-ey'd maid!
To him the prude is tender hearted,
The paintress from her easel started—
"Oh! sir, you servant, pray sit down;
My husband's charm'd you're come to town."—
For, would you think it? On my life,
'Twas all the while the artist's wife.

Some five and twenty years ago, several of the orphan daughters of clergymen, patronized and protected by her majesty, and under the direction of Mrs. Wright, wrought in needle-work some bed-furniture, and several other things which beam with taste and elegance.*

To these may be added the works of Mrs. Knowles,† who, to some of her fruit-pieces, has given

"The glow of nature, and the bloom of spring."

We might grace this list with many other names; but to Miss Linwood it was reserved to produce a collection, which, considering its magnitude and excellence, must be deemed a monument, not only of uncommon genius, but of an industry and perseverance which surpasses the long long labours of Penelope at her procrastinated web. Her works exhibit an honourable history of that part of her life which is past; but as her talents entitle her to a place in this miscellany, and as many of the many thousands who have visited the exhibition in Han-

* This establishment, so honourable to her majesty, is still continued; she allows 500l. per annum for the education and accomplishment of five orphan daughters of clergymen.

† The Quaker, widow of the late Dr. Knowles.

over

over-square, will naturally wish to know some particulars of the creator of *that world of wonders*, we have endeavoured to procure all the information we could (and it is very slender) of the artist who produced it.

Her family is of Northamptonshire, where they have resided for some ages in situations highly respectable. She was born in Warwickshire, and has, from her very early years, resided in Leicester.

Like many other persons who have had a bias to what has marked and done honour to their future lives by very trivial causes, this lady owes her first thought of an art, in which she has so highly distinguished herself, to a very trifling circumstance.

About the year 1782, a friend sent her a large collection of prints in the various stiles of stroke, mezzotinto, &c. They were left with no other view than that of affording her a few days amusement. Inspecting them with the eye of genius, she conceived that the force of an engraving might be united with the softness of a mezzotinto. Unacquainted with the use of aqua fortis in etching, a stranger to the mode of scraping a mezzotinto, and totally ignorant of the art of engraving in stroke, and the whole use of the burin, she had no instrument but her needle to make the experiment. With that she endeavoured to realize and embody her first idea, by copying such prints as most struck her attention, with the rovings of black and puce coloured silk upon white sarsnet. The needle, in her hands, became like the spear of Ithuriel;

Ithuriel; she touched her ground-work, her figures assumed form and started into life.

Encouraged by the applause which was bestowed on her first works, she made copies of a still larger size; and the Empress of Russia being then considered as the grand protector of genius, and seeming desirous of making her court the repository of every great work of art that was produced in Europe, Miss Linwood was advised to present a specimen to the Empress. Not knowing the extent of her own powers, nor having then a thought of making a collection, she consented, and consigned a large picture to Petersburgh, which, in October 1783, was presented to her Imperial Majesty by her then favourite general Landskoy. She expressed the highest admiration of the performance, said it was an exquisite work, and, in that branch of art, unquestionably the finest in the world, and ordered Landskoy to make such a present to the artist as should be worthy of the work, and of herself. But death countermanded the commands of the Empress, for the general departed this life a few weeks afterwards, nor dared any one in the court of Petersburgh to mention either his name, or aught in which he had been a party, to the Imperial Catherine. But, however neglected the artist, the picture is highly distinguished, and now occupies a favourite situation in the Emperor's palace.

The first attempt Miss Linwood made to imitate paintings was in 1785, and she so far succeeded, that

in

in 1786, she submitted to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. the St. Peter, from Guido; the Head of Lear, from Sir Joshua Reynolds; and a Hare, from the Houghton collection. For this the society voted her a medal, on which is engraven, between two branches of laurel, "EXCELLENT IMITATIONS OF PICTURES IN NEEDLE-WORK." The writer of this article remembers to have seen, and much admired these exquisite specimens of the art.

Between that period and 1789, she made great additions to her collection, and, in that year, copied the Salvator Mundi, from a picture, by Guido, in the collection of the Earl of Exeter; for which exquisite production, the writer has been informed, on authority which he confides in, she was once offered the immense sum of three thousand guineas.

In ancient times it was customary for ladies to present scarfs to their favourite heroes; but *the days of chivalry are no more*; Miss Linwood has, however, had the honour of having wrought the first banner that has been offered to any association, since the commencement of the present hostilities, and of having, in the year 1794, presented it to the united *corps* of cavalry and yeomanry of Leicestershire. It is her own composition, extremely well thought, and finished with a neatness that has been rarely united with so much force.

To return to the art which this lady professes, we have been informed that she was never regularly instructed in drawing, but certain it is that she has uncommon merit in painting, both in crayons, distemper, and colours,

colours; draws with accuracy, taste, and spirit, and in her paintings at the Leicester ball-room, &c. the perspective is precisely correct.

Her first thought of making an exhibition of her own paintings originated in some pictures which she some years since sent to the Royal Academy, being refused admission; as by a law, which like that of the Medes and Persians, *altereth not*, they reject every thing in needlework.

To enumerate the various merits of her exhibition is scarcely necessary, it is before the public, and the attention with which it has been honoured, reflects equal praise on the taste of the metropolis and the talents of the artist.*

* A Dialogue in Miss Linwood's exhibition rooms, Hanover-square.

Just return'd from *the tour*,—with complexion quite bilious,
A squeak in his voice, and an air supercilious,—
Sir Visto,—sweet scented with Warren's perfume,
Stept out of his chariot at Linwood's great room;
And there,—in an *Anglo-Italian* oration,
To a man of true taste, thus depicted the nation:
"What Goths are these English; how stupid a crew!
How devoid of all taste, talent, *gout*, or *vertu!*
Had they seen what I've seen, when I saunter'd thro' Rome,
How sunk would be all that they meet with at home.
"Were Julio Romano, and Carlo Marat,
With Guido, and Raphael *divine*, and all that!
With these needle-work things to be plac'd in a row,—
Pray which do you think would display the best show?"
"Why faith," replies Manly, "with you I admire
In Guido the ease, and in Rosa the fire—
But Linwood, though *worsted*, must still keep her place,
And rival them all, both in colour and grace!"

From

From the late and the present president of the Royal Academy, and almost every other artist of eminence in the kingdom, her works have received the highest and most generous praise; and Sir Joshua Reynolds gave a sanction to his approbation, by pointing out which of his own pictures would have the best effect in her copies. From him, as well as the late Lords Exeter, Gainsborough, &c. &c. she had many capital paintings, of which her imitations are now in Hanover-square.

She is now adding to her collection, by copying two (the Woodman in a storm, and the Shepherd's Boy) from the late inimitable Gainsborough, lent to her by Colonel Edward Noel, and two (Lady Jane Grey, and Ephraim and Manasseh) from Northcote.

The following very elegant stanzas were written by a lady, and a short time since inserted in the Monthly Magazine.

ON MISS LINWOOD's ADMIRABLE PICTURES IN NEEDLE-WORK.

When Egypt's sons, a rude, untutor'd race,
Learn'd, with wild forms, the obelisk to grace,
And mould the idol god in ductile earth,
The loom and polish'd needle took their birth.
When doom'd to dull obscurity no more,
Fair Science reign'd on each surrounding shore,
And stretch'd her arm o'er Greece and early Rome,
Still in her train appear'd the labours of the loom.
When Gothic night o'erwhelm'd the chearful day,
And sculpture, painting, all neglected lay,
And furious man, creation's savage lord,
Knew but the hunter's spear, the murderer's sword;

Our

Our softer sex emboss'd the broider'd vest,
In flowery robe the blooming hero drest;
Or rang'd in tap'stry's glowing colours bright
The mimic crests, and long embattled fight.
Now learning's better sun-beam shone anew,
And Gothic horrors gloomy night withdrew;
Again Prometheus wak'd the senseless clay,
Grace, beauty, order, leap'd to second day.
Most did the manly arts its influence feel,
The pencil chas'd the housewife's humbler steel;
Rent was the aged tap'stry from the wall,
Exulting genius gloried in its fall;
To monstrous shapes, and hideous forms uncouth,
Succeeded nature fair, angelic truth;
The artist, man, awoke the victor's lay,
And women's labours crumbled in decay.
Then LINWOOD rose, inspir'd at once to give
The matchless grace that bids the picture live;
With the bold air, the lovely lasting dye,
That fills at once and charms the wondering eye.
Hail! better Amazon, to thee belong
The critic's plaudits and the poet's song,
To thee may Fame no barren laurels bring,
But flowery wreaths that bud each rising spring.

L. A.

LORD KENYON.

NO profession has afforded better opportunity for the exercise of great talent, and none has rewarded it with higher honours or higher emolument than that of the law. It is a profession also which has this peculiar advantage, that it offers encouragement to that sort of skill, which is within the reach of

of moderate abilities, but which is only acquired by long habits of diligent research and patient assiduity.

The subject of the following memoir has been gradually elevated to one of the highest offices of his profession. No man ever set out upon his career with fewer advantages, derived from nature, or fortune, or connexion. He was born at Greddington, in Flintshire, in which country his father resided on his estate, and filled the office of justice of the peace. Mr. Kenyon was educated at Ruthin, in Denbighshire, and at a very early age was removed by the choice of his parents, in order to be placed in the office of Mr. Tomlinson, an eminent attorney at Nantwich, in Cheshire, as an articled clerk.

At the expiration of his articles, Mr. Tomlinson died, and as it was intended that Mr. Kenyon should have carried on the practice in conjunction with that gentleman, an important change took place in the destination of his life. Determined to adventure on the wider space of exertion, which the profession of a Counsel allotted to him, he entered at Lincoln's Inn in Trinity Term, 1754, and was called to the bar in Hilary Term, 1761.

During the first years of his profession, Mr. Kenyon's advancement was slow. It was probably retarded by those causes, which must always operate against professional men, who are not pushed into notice by the exertions and recommendations of strong and powerful connexions. And, it would be no derogation from the talents of Mr. Kenyon, if it were remarked, that he was not fitted by the peculiar

peculiar powers of his mind, and the appropriate character of his genius, to make an impression at first in any respect adequate to the solidity and depth of his judgment. The department of the science on which he has been most intensely occupied, has been that of conveyancing; a line of the profession, which peculiarly demands habits of precise and patient industry, rather than splendid exertions of talent.

But the merit of Mr. Kenyon, as a sound lawyer, and an industrious practitioner were by no means overlooked. He rose into practice gradually, but his footing was sure and strong. The greater part of his business was what is called chamber business; that of giving opinions on cases submitted to his judgment, and of drawing conveyances, and bills in equity. In this branch of the profession, he arrived at very considerable eminence, and no legal opinion carried with it more weight and authority than that of Mr. Kenyon.

About this time he contracted an intimacy with Mr. Thurlow, afterwards Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, a circumstance to which some have attributed his rise at the Chancery bar; but it is surely more probable, that he ensured his success by his own talents and application. In the Court of Chancery his practice was very extensive and lucrative; and he had already acquired a very large fortune by his business in that court, when, in the year 1782, he was appointed attorney-general, and chief justice of Chester. In his promotion to the attorney-gene-

ralship, Mr. Kenyon is a singular instance of the acquisition of that honour, without serving the intermediate office of solicitor-general.

About this period, he was brought into Parliament, and in the memorable debates on Mr. Fox's coalition took a very zealous and animated part against that unfortunate measure. As a political character he was exposed to satyrical merriment in the facetious criticisms of the Rolliad, prefixed to which there is a very admirable likeness of Sir Lloyd Kenyon, as master of the Rolls. To this latter office he was appointed in the year 1784, a place of considerable rank and honour in the profession, but by no means equal in emolument to the lucrative income he derived from his professional exertions.

In this situation he remained till 1788, when the venerable Earl of Mansfield resigned his seat on the bench, to the great regret of the bar and the country, after having presided so many years in the Court of King's Bench, with a dignity and firmness so highly honourable to his judicial character. It is said that this great man maintained a struggle with his increasing infirmities, and kept his situation, notwithstanding the weakness of his health, for the purpose of procuring his vacant seat for a judge, to whom he was personally attached by long habits of friendship. Sir Lloyd Kenyon, however, received this great distinction on the resignation of Lord Mansfield, and was at the same time honoured with a peerage.

Since his promotion to the chief justiceship of England,

England, his Lordship has exhibited a more conspicuous part on the theatre of public life. A function of such extensive influence, and occupying so vast a space in the eyes of mankind, necessarily exposes the character, and the conduct of those who exercise them, to much scrutiny and animadversion. He who is placed at the head of the first criminal and civil judicature of the country, in which the most momentous controversies of law are decided, and the most solemn questions of property adjusted, must be clothed with more than human perfection, to escape censure and imputation. But concerning the integrity of Lord Kenyon, no dispute ever entered into the mind of any one, who has been at all conversant with the business of our courts of justice. There is however an excess of zeal in morals as well as in religion, which may occasionally betray the best and the wisest men into intemperance and vehemence of expression. Perhaps the noble judge is too frequently carried away by this generous enthusiasm. But much ought to be indulged to feeling when it is on the side of virtue; and that is a cold and austere philosophy which would restrain the sensibilities of an honest mind, when they are employed in the service of good morals and religion.

In exhibiting an impartial character of Lord Kenyon, it is impossible not to advert to the quickness and irritability of his temper, which have been frequently objected to him. These unquestionably are not judicial qualities. Succeeding to a man so

remarkable for the mildness and urbanity of his manners, it is not extraordinary, that too much animadversion should have been exercised on the temper of the noble judge. The want of courteousness is more peculiarly noticed in a situation of such high rank and such honourable estimation. Yet we believe it to be in a great measure a habit arising from a constitutional irritability, which has been frequently found to baffle all the vigilance and all the efforts that have been made to subdue it. But it cannot be dissembled, that there is nothing more directly derogatory to the dignity of the judicial character, than the exhibition of fretful and choleric dispositions.

If the name of Lord Kenyon descends to posterity, it will descend with the praises of all good men, for his firm and persevering exertions, to keep the channels of law clear and unpolluted by low and sordid practices. Over the attornies of his Court, he has exercised a vigilant and salutary authority, of which the utility has been already very extensively experienced. No profession contains within it more honourable and upright practisers; none has afforded greater encouragement to low and desperate adventurers. These are evils inseparable from the profession; but it is the duty of those entrusted with the administration of the laws, to preserve their purity and soundness, as far as human caution and vigilance can be extended. These low pettyfoggers in law, the professors of mean quibbles and despicable evasions, have contributed to bring law itself into dis

honourable

honourable estimation, among those, who, from these partial abuses, are led into unjust inferences against the system itself. But it ought to be remembered, that, by the ordinary dispensations of providence, great evils grow up with great benefits; and that the worst and most pestilential evils are engendered in the heat and luxuriance of the greatest of our blessings.

Nor can it be forgotten, in a review of the public character of Lord Kenyon, that he has most effectually vindicated the cause of virtue and morality, in those trials of adultery, which, at different times, have come before him. He has expressed a virtuous indignation in terms at once impressive and appropriate. Neither rank, nor wealth, nor station, are protected from the just animadversion they incur in these loathsome and detestable transactions; and under his Lordship's directions, the most exemplary damages have been awarded to plaintiffs, in those cases which have appeared under any circumstances of aggravation. His Lordship has, in this respect, done much towards the restraint of this fashionable and prevailing profligacy. Yet much remains to be done, and the efficacy of the law concerning adultery as it now stands, is necessarily very limited and imperfect. If adultery be an offence against good morals, if the invasion of the marriage bed be a crime deserving of civil denunciation, a law which merely operates as a pecuniary penalty must be ineffectual to its restraint and extirpation. Civil punishment ought to be adjusted to the magnitude of the crime;

and if this be an offence of high enormity, there is surely some palpable defect in our jurisprudence, which considers it only as a civil trespass, for which a defendant is to make a pecuniary compensation.

Another feature of Lord Kenyon's magisterial character is to be discerned in the severity with which he has administered the justice of the land, on the pernicious tribe of gamblers who have for some years infested this metropolis. This has proved a difficult but not impracticable undertaking; the vice having imperceptibly tainted the morals of the people in every condition of life; a vice, however, by no means natural to Englishmen, but the fruit of those foreign importations, which, with the manners and luxuries, have introduced the follies and profligacy of other countries.

It were impossible to give a minute account of Lord Kenyon's public life, which would be the history of what has been transacted in the Court of King's Bench for nearly these last ten years. Of his decisions, for the most part, the fairness and soundness are undisputed. Those are his best judgments, in which cases of real property are determined; and they abound with all the learning and ingenuity which are communicated by long practice, and the long exercise of his mind on these subjects.

The style of Lord Kenyon is chiefly technical, consisting of phrases and words derived from a long course of legal reading. In the use of language he is very unskilful; he sometimes clothes strong ideas in energetic diction; but his strength of expression

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is never softened by grace or elegance. In his sentences, he is quaint, and affected; having acquired from intercourses with books of legal disquisition, the stiff and unbending formality of the writers on law, none of whom, except Lord Bacon and Sir William Blackstone had any skill in the art of composition. Nor is this apparent quaintness relieved by his newly acquired habit of thrusting Latin quotations into his speeches, without duly considering how far they illustrate or apply to the subject on which he is discoursing, and by means of which his diction is sometimes ludicrously pyeballed, and incongruous. For these defects, an imperfect or irregular education will account. But it is easy, notwithstanding, to observe in the speeches of Lord Kenyon, the operations of a strong understanding, illuminated by clear and distinct perceptions.

Delicacy forbids us to say much concerning the political character of the noble Lord. It would have contributed more to the genuine and durable reputation of his Lordship, if he had on no occasion exhibited, in his judicial station, a mind heated and exasperated by the politics of the day. It is a reflection, which ought to be impressed on the minds of all in high and elevated rank, that the fame which is acquired by a subservience to the intrigue or passions of the times, is fugitive and precarious; that the instrument of a party is soon forgotten, and the very memorial of his name soon buried in oblivion. But he who, in the discharge of his duties to his country, holds a steady course betwixt the contending factions, neither tempted by the hope of profes-

sional preferment, nor terrified by the menaces of ministerial hatred, has secured a reputation, which is beyond the reach of political caprice, or personal malice.

His Lordship is much esteemed in private life.* He married, in 1773, his cousin Mary, daughter of George Kenyon, Esq. of Peele, in Lancashire, by whom he has three sons, Lloyd, George, and Thomas.

X.

MR. WARREN HASTINGS.

THE prospects of Mr. Hastings, in the early part of his life, were not very favourable. Although descended from an ancient family that formerly held considerable landed possessions, his more immediate ancestors were not in affluent circumstances. His father, who was a clergyman, and enjoyed a benefice at Churchill, a village near Daylesford, in Worcestershire,† seems to have left him without fortune: for the expence as well as the care of his education devolved on an uncle, Mr. Howard Hastings, who sent him to Westminster school; on whose death

* He is perhaps one of the most temperate and regular men of his rank of the present time. He rises by six in the morning, and retires to rest, except when engaged in public business, by ten in the evening. He seldom drinks wine or spirits, is always punctual in his attendance at divine service, and in his family and among his relatives is greatly respected and beloved. His benevolent attention to the numerous distressed and injured persons, who apply to him for legal advice, is an amiable trait of his character, which cannot be too much known.

† Vide the Memoirs of Mr. Greaves in the early part of the volume.

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he was thrown entirely on the benevolence of strangers, Doctor Nichols, the head master of Westminster, having generously offered to furnish money to complete his education at Oxford, where he then was, and Mr. Creswick, an India Director and executor to his uncle, proposing to send him to Bengal with a writer's appointment. Whatever Mr. Hastings' pecuniary circumstances were at this period, the offer of Dr. Nichols is a strong presumption in behalf of his talents and character as a youth; and the philosopher may be allowed to lament that he did not prefer a continuance at college, where there was a chance of his becoming a benefactor to human nature, through the medium of literary employments.

Mr. Hastings accepted of the India Director's offer; and, sailing from England in the winter of 1749, arrived at Calcutta in the ensuing summer. The education of Mr. Hastings for public life may be properly dated from this period. Mr. Hastings says of himself, in his defence during the impeachment, "With the year 1750, I entered the service of the East India Company; and from that service I have derived all my official habits, all the knowledge which I possess, and all the principles which were to regulate my conduct in it." This school, it must be confessed, is not vrey fit to produce a mind of comprehensive philanthropy. An able agent for a trading company, or a skillful task-master of provinces subjugated to a foreign yoke, it might well prepare; but it seems to possess no circumstances that in their nature could go beyond those objects. Whatever were

were its capacities, Mr. Hastings was fairly provided to avail himself of them all. He was acute, observing, and enterprising; and he was soon placed in the midst of affairs, with great exterior advantages. He was at first attached to one of the factories in Bengal; from which he was soon sent on business into the interior parts of that province, where to novelty of scene were added opportunity for study, and various interesting motives for enquiry. Mr. Hastings was not accustomed to throw away any means of improvement. He applied himself assiduously to the study of the Persian language; to the general cultivation of his talents; and to a minute observation of the circumstances and nature of the English establishments in India.

In 1756, Surajah Doula, having made himself master of Calcutta, issued orders for the seizing of all the English in Bengal, and Mr. Hastings was one of those who were carried prisoners to Moorshadabad, that tyrant's capital. Even at that court, Mr. Hastings had already acquired protectors. He received many marks of favour; and was permitted to reside at the Dutch factory of Calcapore. When Colonel Clive (afterwards Lord Clive) retook Calcutta, Mr. Hastings served as a volunteer in his army, and was present at the night attack of the Nabob's camp.

On the restoration of the company's affairs by Colonel Clive, Mr. Hastings returned to his civil employments; and when Surajah Doulah was deposed, Mr. Hastings was appointed the English minister at the

the court of his successor. In that post he recommended himself to further notice; and, in 1761, was made a member of the government of Bengal. He returned to England about four years after this last appointment; but having brought with him only part of his acquisitions, and his remittances of the remainder in some manner failing, he endeavoured to make interest to return to India; and it is a curious fact, that this man who afterwards became all powerful with the company, could not at that time obtain such a permission.

Mr. Hastings now lived in England, cultivating literature, and enjoying the society of men of genius: among whom were the great Lord Mansfield and Dr. Samuel Johnson.*. In 1766, the year after his return, he made a proposition to establish a professorship of the Persian language at Oxford, with a view, among other motives, to his obtaining the emoluments of that situation, in aid of his own income, which is said to have been very narrow: but a surprising

* Three letters to him from the Doctor have been preserved by Mr. Boswell; who, speaking of the condescension with which Mr. Hastings communicated to him these letters, delineates the following short sketch of his character: "Warren Hastings, a man whose regard reflects dignity even upon Johnson; a man, the extent of whose abilities was equal to that of his power; and who, by those who are fortunate enough to know him in private life, is admired for his literature and taste, and beloved for the candour, moderation, and mildness, of his character. Were I capable of paying a suitable tribute of admiration to him, I should certainly not withhold it at a moment when it is not possible that I should be suspected of being an interested flatterer. But how weak would be my voice, after that of millions whom he governed."

revolution

revolution was preparing in his fortunes. In the winter of the same year, Mr. Hastings, being examined at the bar of the houſe of commons, during an enquiry into the affairs of the company, attracted general notice. And in 1767, he was appointed a member of the council of Madras; with a provision that he was to succeed to the government of that presidency. Mr. Hastings remained in that situation till 1771, when the company appointed him governor of Bengal. In 1773, he was named governor general of Bengal for five years, under the authority of an act of parliament. In 1778, he was continued for one year more; in 1779, again for one year; in 1781, for ten years; and in 1784, his appointment was confirmed by the act of parliament that formed the present government of India. In 1785, however, he returned to England, having been at the head of the government of Bengal more than thirteen years, and possessing, during that time, abſolute power over an extent of territory as large and as populous as all the nations of Europe united!

It is impossible for any man of integrity haſtily to touch the scenes of Mr. Hastings' interesting and splendid government in India, without apprehension and uneasiness. To screen the public delinquent, is among the greatest of public crimes; and to traduce the character of individuals is the blackest of private wrongs: but to shun both of these mistakes, would demand a quantity of time, and a laboriousness of investigation that is not to be expected in a work of this kind. It is, perhaps, the just mean to decline

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the discussion here of the moral character of Mr. Hastings's government, and to furnish a mere sketch of the prominent events.

The government of Bengal, with Mr. Hastings at its head, was vested, in 1772, with almost unlimitted powers. It had been the custom, from the time the company acquired the sovereignty of that immense province, in 1765, to intrust the departments of the revenues, and of judicial proceedings to ministers, natives of the country. The annual revenues were a million below the sum they were calculated to produce. Mr. Hastings effected a great revolution. He changed the whole face of the interior administration in the departments of finance and judicature. He had scarcely time to breathe from these operations, when war broke out with France, and the English territories in India were at once pressed by a great force from Europe, and the principal natives powers of the country. In the midst of these difficulties Mr. Hastings had to contend a long time with a powerful opposition in his own council. In defiance of so many untoward circumstances, the company's affairs wore a better aspect. Their annual revenue was increased from three to five millions. Their enemies among the native Princes were destroyed or won to their alliance—and India had even something to offer to France towards the adjustment of peace for England. Nothing of all this can be denied. Perhaps under the mixed system of trade and conquest that belongs to the English possessions in India, no man could have done more than Mr. Hastings

ings did for his employers. But then, it is still to be asked—what was the price suffering humanity gave for a trading company's increase of revenue, and acquisitions of territory?

During Mr. Hastings' administration, the affairs of the company and the conduct of their servants in India were the subjects of various discussions and proceedings in the house of commons. Twice a vote passed for the recall of Mr. Hastings. On one of these occasions, the house came to that resolution on the following motion of Mr. Dundas, at present one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state.

"That Warren Hastings, Esq. governor-general of Bengal, and William Hornby, Esq. president of the council at Bombay, having, in sundry instances, acted in a manner repugnant to the honor and policy of this nation, and thereby brought great calamities on India, and enormous expences on the East India Company, it is the duty of the directors of the said company to pursue all legal and effectual means for the removal of the said governor-general and president from their respective offices, and to recall them to Great Britain."

In consequence of these votes, the directors came to correspondent resolutions; but their measures were defeated by subsequent resolutions of the proprietors, the majority of whom were bent on continuing Mr. Hastings in his employment.

On the 20th of June, 1785, the day of Mr. Hastings' arrival in England, Mr. Burke gave notice of his intention to move an impeachment of him

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in the ensuing session. On the 4th of April, 1786, Mr. Burke exhibited twenty articles of impeachment against Mr. Hastings, to which he afterwards added two more:* but it was not till April 10th, 1787, that

* The twenty-two articles, occupy an octavo volume of 460 closely printed pages; the following are their substance:

I. With gross injustice, cruelty, and treachery against the faith of nations, in hiring British soldiers for the purpose of extirpating the innocent and helpless people who inhabited the Rohillas.

II. With using the authority delegated to him through the East India Company, for treating the King Shaw Allum, Emperor of Indostan, or otherwise the Great Mogul, with the greatest cruelty, in bereaving him of considerable territory, and withholding forcibly that tribute of 26 lacks of rupees, which the company engaged to pay as an annual tribute or compensation for their holding in his name the Duannee of the rich and valuable provinces of Bengal, and Bahar, and Orissa.

III. With various instances of extortion, and other deeds of mal-administration against the Rajah of Benares. This article consisted of three different parts, in each of which Mr. Hastings was charged with the most wanton oppressions and cruelties.—He gave in papers concerning the rights of the Rajah, his expulsion, and the sundry revolutions which have been effected by the British influence under the controul of the late governor-general in that zemindary.

IV. The numerous and insupportable hardships to which the royal family of Oude had been reduced, in consequence of their connection with the supreme council.

V. With having, by no less than six revolutions, brought the fertile and beautiful provinces of Farruckabad to a state of the most deplorable ruin.

VI. With impoverishing and depopulating the whole country of Oude, and rendering that country, which was once a garden, an uninhabited desart.

VIII. With

that the impeachment was voted; it was then carried without a division. The following was the committee appointed to manage the prosecution, in the name of the commons:

Edmund Burke, Esq; Right Hon. C. J. Fox; R. B. Sheridan, Esq; Right Hon. T. Pelham; Right Hon. W. Windham; Sir Gilbert Elliott, Bt.; Charles Grey, Esq; William Adam, Esq; Sir John Anstruther; M. A. Taylor, Esq; Lord Viscount Maitland; Dudley Long, Esq; General J. Burgoyne; Hon. George A. North; Hon. Andrew St. John; Hon. A. Fitzherbert; Colonel Fitzpatrick; John Courtenay, Esq; A. Rogers; Sir James Erskine.

On the 13th February, 1788, the trial commenced in Westminster-hall; and SEVEN YEARS afterwards,

VII. With a wanton, an unjust, and pernicious exercise of his powers, and the great situation of trust which he occupied in India, in overturning the ancient establishments of the country, and extending an undue influence by conniving at extravagant contracts, and appointing inordinate salaries.

VIII. With receiving money against the orders of the company, the act of parliament, and his own sacred engagements; and applying that money to purposes totally improper and unauthorised.

IX. With having resigned by proxy for the obvious purpose of retaining his situation, and denying the deed in person, in direct opposition to all those powers under which he acted.

X. Accuses him of treachery to Muzuffer Jung, who had been placed under his guardianship.

XI. Charges him with enormous extravagance and bribery in various contracts, with a view to enrich his dependants and favorites.

These are the principal; the other eleven are chiefly connected with, and dependant upon the foregoing.

on the 23d of April, 1795, judgment was pronounced by the Lords on the charges, most of them severally, and Mr. Hastings was acquitted of them all.*

The unprecedented duration of the trial, was an evil, wherever the fault lay, of an enormous extent, both as it bore upon the public and Mr. Hastings, but it was more especially grievous to the latter. The expences to the public of this trial amounted to more than 100,000l.; and Mr. Hastings' law expences to more than 60,000l. In consideration of the latter, and of his services, the East India Company voted him an annual pension of 4000l. for twenty-eight years and a half, amounting to 114,000l. of which the company gave him 42,000l. in advance, and lent him beside 50,000l. And it is just to observe, that the company took other measures to declare their belief of his innocence.

Mr. Hastings is said to be a good architect and engineer. His literary attainments are certainly very extraordinary for a man who passed more than thirty-three years of his life in active scenes of business in

* Twenty-nine were the greatest number of peers who voted on this occasion. On the first article of the impeachment twenty-three voted *not guilty*, and six *guilty*. On two of the articles the vote of *not guilty* was unanimous. The Lord Chancellor pronounced the judgment in the following words, "Warren Hastings, Esq. I am to acquaint you that you are ACQUITTED "of the ARTICLES of IMPEACHMENT, &c. exhibited "against you by the House of Commons, for High Crimes and "Misdemeanors, and all things contained therein, and you are "discharged, paying your fees."

such a service as that of the East India Company, and who entered their service before he was seventeen. Mr. Hastings is now in the 66th year of his age.

We shall conclude this memoir with the following elegant specimen of Mr. Hastings' poetical powers. It is a rare instance that a man unites in his own person, various talents, in so great a degree of excellence. This beautiful imitation of the OTIUM DIVOS of Horace, is said to have been written while on his passage to England, in 1785.

For ease the harrassed seaman prays,
When equinoctial tempests raise
The Cape's surrounding wave;
When hanging o'er the reef he hears
The cracking mast, and sees or fears,
Beneath, his wat'ry grave.
For ease the slow Mahratta spoils,
And hardier Seik erratic toils,
While both their ease forego;
For ease, which neither gold can buy,
Nor robes, nor gems, which oft bely
The cover'd heart, bestow.
For neither gold nor gems combin'd
Can heal the soul or suffering mind.
Lo! where their owner lies:
Perch'd on his couch Distemper breathes,
And Care, like smoke, in turbid wreaths,
Round the gay ceiling flies.
He who enjoys, nor covets more,
The lands his father held before,
Is of true bliss possess'd;
Let but his mind unfetter'd tread,
Far as the paths of knowledge lead,
And wise, as well as blest.

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No fears his peace of mind annoy,
Lest printed lies his fame destroy,
  Which labor'd years have won;
Nor pack'd Committees break his rest,
Nor avarice sends him forth in quest
  Of climes beneath the Sun.
Short is our span; then why engage
In schemes for which man's transient age
  Was ne'er by fate design'd?
Why slight the gifts of Nature's hand?
What wanderer from his native land
  E'er left himself behind?
The restless thought and wayward will,
And discontent, attend him still,
  Nor quit him while he lives;
At sea, Care follows in the wind;
At land, it mounts the pad behind,
  Or with the post-boy drives.
He who would happy live to-day,
Must laugh the present ills away,
  Nor think of woes to come;
For come they will, or soon or late,
Since mix'd at best is man's estate,
  By Heav'n's eternal doom.
To ripen'd age CLIVE liv'd renown'd,
With lacks enrich'd, with honours crown'd,
  His valour's well-earn'd meed.
Too long, alas! he liv'd to hate
His envied lot, and died too late,
  From life's oppression freed.
An early death was ELLIOTT's doom;
I saw his opening virtues bloom,
  And manly sense unfold,
Too soon to fade. I bade the stone
Record his name, 'midst hordes unknown,
  Unknowing what it told.
To thee, perhaps, the Fates may give,
I wish they may, in health to live,

Herds,

Herds, flocks, and fruitful fields;
Thy vacant hours in mirth to shine;
With these the Muse, already thine,
Her present bounty yields.
For me, O SHORE, I only claim,
To merit, not to seek for, fame,
The good and just to please;
A state above the fear of want,
Domestic love, Heaven's choicest grant,
Health, leisure, peace, and ease.

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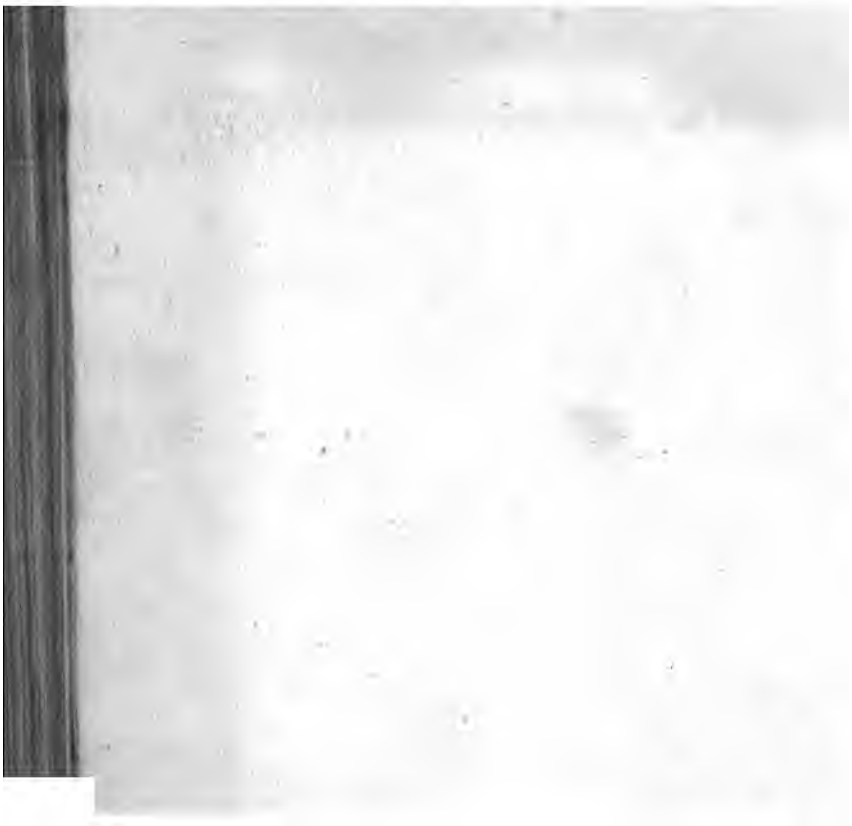

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